紫色の潔白

Purple Innocence

DO NOT REDISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION.

I'LL BE WATCHING...

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!!

HANDS OFF!™

1

KASANE KATSUMOTO

TOKYOPOP®

D

Volume 1

by

Kasane Katsumoto

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Hands Off! Vol. 1

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ACT 1

CHECK IT OUT! ALMOST AS GOOD AS A REAL CHICK
HE'S GOT THE LEGS!
HE'S NOT HALF BAD
TOUCH ME AND YOU'RE DEAD!
SOMEONE'S PMS-ING DUDE, THE SCARF!
HA HA HA!
LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!
GODDAMN IT ALL TO HELL!
I'M QUITTING THIS SCHOOL IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!

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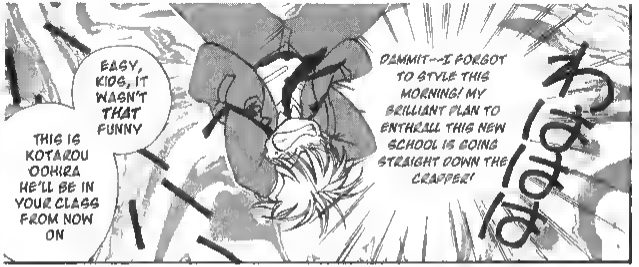
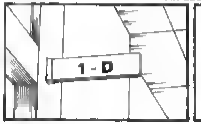
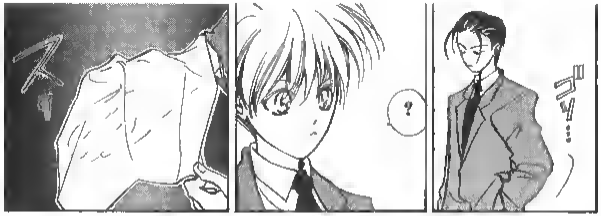
ACT 1

HEY I'M KOTAROU OOHIRA, AGE 15
AND MY LIFE SUCKS
キーン コーン
CRAP! THE BELL!
TODAY WAS GONNA BE MY DRAMATIC FRESHMAN ENTRANCE INTO TOKYO
I'M SO FRICKIN' LATE!


わはは
DAMMIT--I FORGOT TO STYLE THIS MORNING! MY BRILLIANT PLAN TO ENTHRALL THIS NEW SCHOOL IS GOING STRAIGHT DOWN THE CRAPPER!
EASY, KIDS, IT WASN'T THAT FUNNY
THIS IS KOTAROU OOHIRA HE'LL BE IN YOUR CLASS FROM NOW ON

*An abbreviation for Print Club- instant photo machines that make tiny stickers




?
ゴッ…

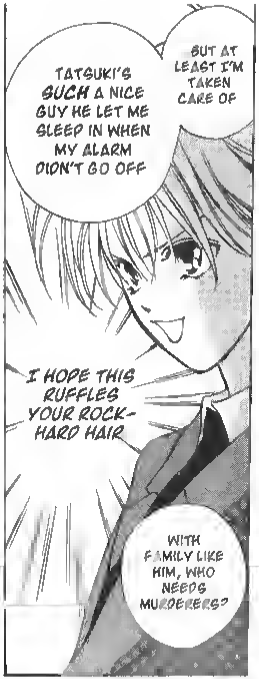
!!
MARRIED

MEN'S ROOM
STUPID TATSUKI!
A HANDKERCHIEF! WHAT A FREAK-SHOW!
IF HE THINKS HE CAN TREAT ME LIKE SOME KINDA...KINDA LEECH OR...KEGH!

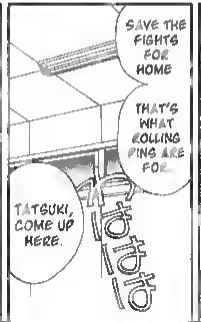
SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
AAAND THE GERM PHOBIA GOARS ITS UGLY HEAD
HE DOESN'T HAVE A THING FOR FEMMY, FAMILY MEMBERS, DOES HE?
THAT'S A PRETTY CANICKY OR NICE FOR A MAN WHO RARELY BLINKS.
HUNH! BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN TATSUKI COMFORTING AYUKA.

HE LOOKS LIKE A CHICK
Hes cute!

SORRY
YOU CURL LIKE A KITTEN, I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART


TATSUKI'S SUCH A NICE GUY HE LET ME SLEEP IN WHEN MY ALARM DIDN'T GO OFF
BUT AT LEAST I'M TAKEN CARE OF
I HOPE THIS RUFFLES YOUR ROCK-HARD HAIR
WITH FAMILY LIKE HIM, WHO NEEDS MURDERERS?

SHAKE YOUR COUSIN'S HAND
I HAVE A CLASS TO RUN


SAVE THE FIGHTS FOR HOME
THAT'S WHAT ROLLING PINS ARE FOR...
TATSUKI, COME UP HERE.
ぱぱぱ

TATSUKI!
ぎゃはは
YOU BIG FAT JERK!
BABY

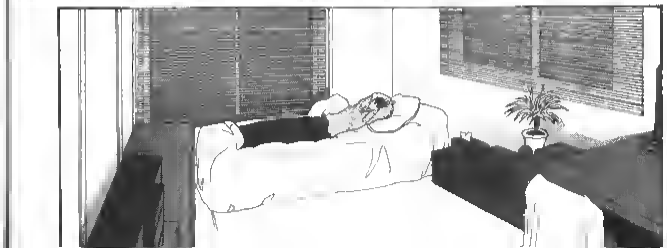
HOLY..
I'VE NEVER SEEN AN AURA GET SO CLEAR!
WHAT'S GOING ON? I'M JUST TOUCHING HIS SHOULDER!
YOU OKAY?
AIN'T I?
THANKS FOR THE SAVE
IF YOU EVER NEED A PAL, JUST CALL OLO--
YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD GUY
!!
OI, YUUTO.
YOU CAN LET GO ANYTIME NOW.
OW!
OH, MAN.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH?

HUH?
WHOA, YOU'VE GOT A SALON IN HERE! CAN I REALLY USE IT?
CHECK IT OUT-- HAIR DRYER, GEL, MOUSSE, THE WORKS. HELP YOURSELF
THAT'S WHAT IT'S FOR. THE NAME'S YUUTO URUSHIYAMA
YUUTO COOL
WATER WON'T CUT IT
HEY, MR. TRANSFER.
I'VE GOT A PREMIER MEN'S KIT FOR ALL YOUR GROOMING NEEDS.
HOW DO I LOOK?
GOD, EVEN HIS NECK'S GIRLY
HIS SKIN'S PALE ENOUGH TO SEND A JEALOUS CHICK OUT FOR MORE CREAMS.
I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT HAIR COLOR'S NATURAL, TOO.
GOOD AND MANLY! ♪
EH.
YEAH!

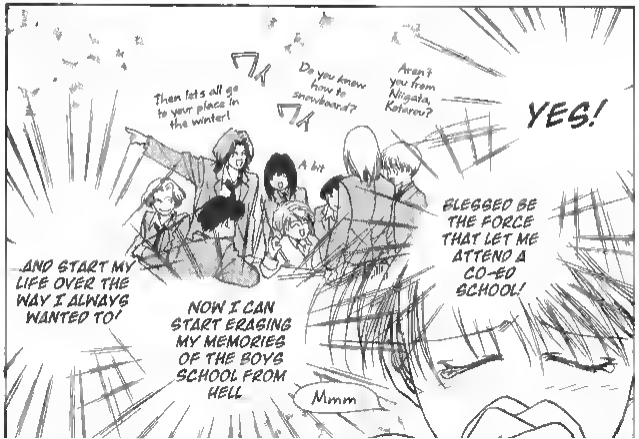
AT ANY RATE, YOU GUYS LOOK NOTHING ALIKE
IS SOMEONE STILL MAD ABOUT THAT HANDSHAKE?
THANK GOD.
NO! WE'RE JUST BOTH LIVING WITH OUR GRANDPA, GOD, DON'T EVEN JOKE
IS IT TRUE YOU AND TATSUKI ARE, Y'KNOW, "INVOLVED?"
I TOLD YOU. DON'T BE SO MEAN
OH HEH HEH
YEAH
LOOK, DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY
TATSUKI'S ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE NEUROTIC
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
NO, I'M PRETTY SURE HE HATES ME.
Very sure. Girl instinct
IS THERE A GIRL AT THIS SCHOOL NAMED CHIAKI KISHI?
OF COURSE I DIDN'T!
OOOH, KAYKE
WHAT, DID YOU RUIN HIS CHILDHOOD OR SOMETHING?

HO...
YEAH, I'M FINE
HEH HEH
THIS KID'S A PIECE OF CAKE TO READ
HE BUMPS INTO A GIRL AND TURNS RIDICULOUSLY HAPPY YELLOW
HEY, KOTAROU
HM?
SO HER NAME'S REIKA. EXCELLENT
REIKA, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
HOTTIE!!

TAK-KUN?
LET'S BE FRIENDS FOREVER, OKAY?



?
HERE
WOW, SHE IS PRETTY!
SHE AND REIKA ARE DIFFERENT TYPES
SEE?
STILL LOOK ALIKE, THOUGH
THEN REIKA IS MY TYPE
YEAH!
SHOW HIM A FURIKURA
JEEZ, ADD A NOTCH TO THE STALKER LIST!
MY SISTER'S REALLY PRETTY, SHE ATTRACTS ALL KINDS OF WEIRDOS
THAT'S MY BIG SISTER
SHE'S A THIRD YEAR
YOUR SISTER, REIKA?
SOME CREEP KEPT ASKING ME ABOUT HER AT THE SCHOOL GATE
OLDER GUY REAL SKUZZY
THAT AGAIN?!

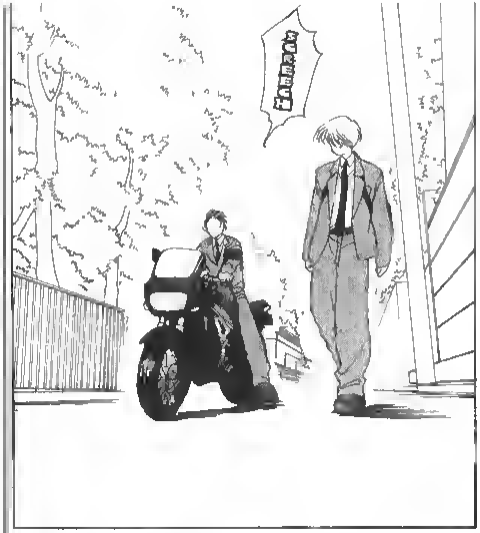

Then let's all go to your place in the winter!
Do you know how to snowboard?
Aren't you from Niigata, Katarou?
YES!
A bit
AND START MY LIFE OVER THE WAY I ALWAYS WANTED TO!
NOW I CAN START ERASING MY MEMORIES OF THE BOYS SCHOOL FROM HELL
BLESSED BE THE FORCE THAT LET ME ATTEND A CO-ED SCHOOL!
Mmm

HE GAVE ME THIS. .POWER
HE DID THIS TO ME
..WE MIGHT'VE STAYED..
IF NOT FOR THAT...
SORRY
I'D ASK GRAMPA, BUT HE'S ASLEEP
TATSUKI? CAN I COME IN?
KNOCK
I CAN'T FIND THE BANDAGES
ARRGH! CRAZY ASSHOLE FREAK!
WHAT'D I DO TO DESERVE THIS?
TH--
TOSS

THAT'S WHEN IT BEGAN
MAYBE SHE'LL COOK SOME SEKIHAN", HUH? HA
AT LEAST AKIKO CAN RELAX NOW
I HEARD THE OLD LADY FINALLY HANGED HERSELF
TAK-KUN!
*Traditionally Japanese people cook and eat Sekihan steamed sweet rice with red beans to celebrate good events
BUT HER BODY WAS ALL BEATEN UP, Y'KNOW?
YEAH, I TOOK HER DOWN FROM THE TREE.
TAK-KUN!
IT TOOK ME AWHILE
BUT HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO BE AROUND
WHEN I TOUCH KOTA*...
BUT I EVENTUALLY REALIZED I WAS SEEING THE PAST
I NOTICED THAT WHEN I CAME BACK TO TOKYO.
. I SEE BAD THINGS
*A childish name for Keitarou

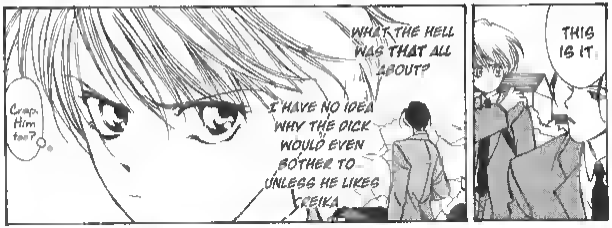
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
ANY-WHERE BUT HERE
I'M GOING AFTER CHIAKI
HEY, KOTAROU!
THAT SETTLES IT
REIKA MUST BE GOING NUTS WITH HER SISTER BEING MIA
I HOPE SHE'S HOLDING UP OKAY
LOOK, C'MERE
WHAT NOW?
UM... WHAT?
IS IT? I HAVE FRIENDS WHO'VE SEEN HER
GIMME A BREAK THAT'S JUST GOSSIP!
WE DON'T TALK ABOUT IT AROUND REIKA..
BUT, Y'KNOW YOU GET ME?
WHY NOT?!
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT THAT CHIAKI CHICK
SHE MAY LOOK SWEET, BUT I HEARD SHE'S PRETTY WILD IN THE NIGHT SCENE.

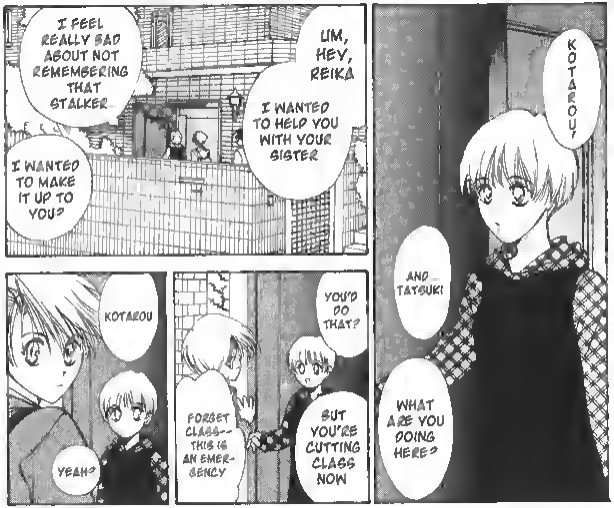
HER SISTER NEVER CAME HOME YESTERDAY
I KNOW, RIGHT? REIKA CALLED LAST NIGHT
HEY
I JUST SAW A COP GOING TO THE TEACHERS' OFFICE
FOR REAL?!
SHE STAYED HOME
WHAT ABOUT REIKA?
REIKA'S SISTER DISAP-PEARED?
YOU'RE KIDDING ME
WHA---?
DAMMIT!
I SHOULD'VE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THAT STALKER GUY
I WAS RUNNING LATE TO CLASS
I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT HIM
TEACHERS' OFFICE
SO THE MAN YOU SAW-- HE WAS AT THE SCHOOL GATE
DID HE HAVE A CAR?
UM... I DIDN'T NOTICE, SORRY



I'LL EVEN SLIP YOU MY BEST LINES, IF YOU NEED THE HELP
GIRLS'D LOVE A CUTE FACE LIKE YOURS
Wanna come?
I WAS HOPING TO PICK UP CHICKS IN ODAIBA *
ANYWAY, I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU HAVE PLANS TONIGHT

*A recently redeveloped area in Tokyo popular among young people

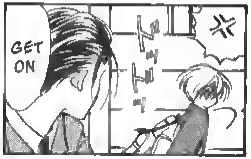

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY THE DICK WOULD EVEN BOTHER TO— UNLESS HE LIKES REIKA
Crap. Him too?
THIS IS IT


I FEEL REALLY SAD ABOUT NOT REMEMBERING THAT STALKER
I WANTED TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU?
UM, HEY, REIKA
I WANTED TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR SISTER
KOTAROU?
AND TAYSUKI
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
KOTAROU
YEAH?
FORGET CLASS-- THIS IS AN EMERGENCY
YOU'D DO THAT?
BUT YOU'RE CUTTING CLASS NOW

……

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU HATE ME
JUST LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE!
GO SUCK YOURSELF!

"GOSH ALMIGHTY, I'LL BET LITTLE REIKA'S SAD I'LL SAVE HER GIG AND MAKE IT ALL BETTER"


GET ON

УДДДДН!

ПФ

HEY!

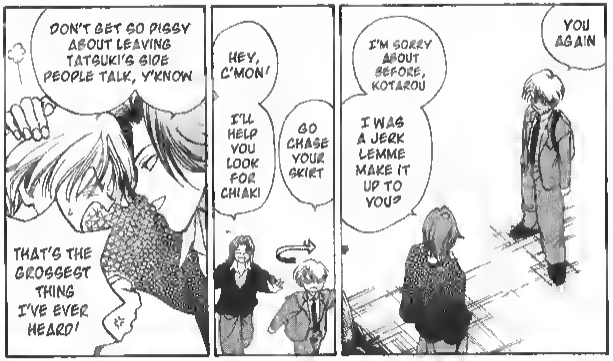
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
YOUR BAND-AID'S PEELING
IS IT? I'LL GET A NEW ONE
LIKE IT USED TO.
HN
WHAT?
BUT STARING...
BUT HE'S HERE...
HERE SHOULD I PUT IT ON HIM?
YOU CREEPY ASS!
NO-- I'LL DO IT
!!
TOUCHING HIM MIGHT CLEAR MY VISION
HE'S DOING THIS ON PURPOSE!
HE WANTS EEIKA TO THINK I'M...
FEEL

WELL, HERE IT IS
WE SHOULD CHECK CHIAKI'S ROOM
THERE MIGHT BE A CLUE THERE
I CAN'T SEE WELL ENOUGH
.....
IS THAT CHIAKI?

HEY! TATSUKI!
THIS COLOR BAND-AID'S BETTER
WHAT?!
DO YOU THINK CHIAKI--
I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG NUMBER
POOL?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
THIS ISN'T THE PLACE, KOTAROU
FOR WHAT?
UM, NO WHY?
NO REASON
I DON'T
DID YOUR SISTER EVER GO TO A POOL?
POOL?
?

CHIAKI..?
KISHI
HM?
WELL, YEAH PRETTY MUCH
ARE YOU AS TALL AS YOUR SISTER?
I'M NOT SEEING MUCH
THEN YOU TWO CAN SHARE CLOTHES?
SOME-TIMES

ACT 1


DON'T GET SO PISSY ABOUT LEAVING TATSUKI'S SIDE PEOPLE TALK, Y'KNOW
THAT'S THE GROSSEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!
HEY, C'MON!
I'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR CHIAKI
GO CHASE YOUR SKIRT
I'M SORRY ABOUT BEFORE, KOTAROU
I WAS A JERK LEMME MAKE IT UP TO YOU?
YOU AGAIN

CHIAKI MUST BE IN DEEP.
THAT PLACE IS HARD-CORE.
BY THE WAY, WERE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT POOL?
WOO!
GOD... DO WHAT YOU WANT

A CLUB, HUH?
Even I sensed it
NOT "A" POOL, POOL
IT'S A SKETCHY CLUB
POOLS AREN'T HARD-CORE.

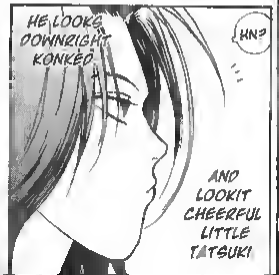
I WILL

JUST KEEP FAITH, OKAY?
I'M SURE YOUR SISTER'S GONNA BE FINE
I'LL KEEP LOOKING
HANG IN THERE
KOTAROU...

HUH?
WAIT
CLUES
LET'S GO.
HEY

UH, REIKA

I FIGURED THEY'D BE TOGETHER.
HUNH.
HEY!


HE LOOKS DOWNRIGHT KONKED
HN?
AND LOOKIT CHEERFUL LITTLE TATSUKI

WHAT WAS THAT "POOL" THING?
TATSUKI, WAIT UP!
DAMN

SCREW YOU!
THERE'RE A LOT OF GAYS HERE LET THEM THINK YOU'RE FREE AND YOU'LL REGRET IT
SETTLE DOWN
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
けり
I THINK THAT MEANS HE LIKES YOU.
YOU'RE MENTAL, Y'KNOW THAT?
QUIT BEING SO DAMN TOUCHY!
DAMN.
DAMN!

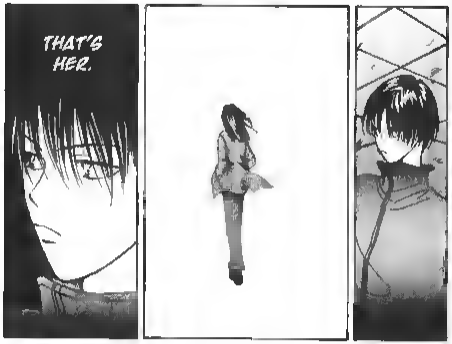
I THINK SOMETHING REALLY IS WRONG.
THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR.
BUT MAN... KOTAROU'S RIGHT.

I DON'T GET YOU, TATSUKI.
WHAT COULD MAKE YOU FEEL SO COMPLICATED TOWARD YOUR OWN COUSIN?
THAT'S A PRETTY BRIGHT AURA.
CONFLICTED, MAYBE, BUT BRIGHT.
TENSION.
I CAN SEE ANXIETY...
...AND EMBARRASSMENT...
BUT THERE'S COMFORT THERE TOO.

OH, MAN!

DON'T LOOK AT ME, KIDDO.
TATSUKI'S THE ONE WHO SAID IT.
THIS CAN'T BE IT!
CAN YOU PICTURE CHIAKI WITH THESE KINDS OF
SW, CHUCK OUT THAT GUY

YUUTO WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT THIS PLACE BEING SKETCHY.
I DIDN'T THINK TOKYO STUDENTS CAME TO PLACES LIKE THIS.

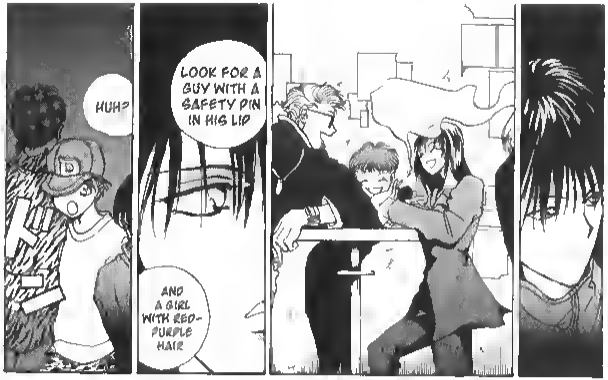

THAT'S HER.

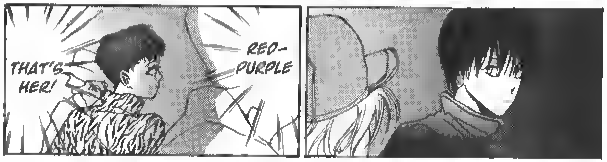
SO CHIAKI DID COME HERE.

WAIT, YOU FOUND A CLUE BUDDY OF CHIAKI'S?
S'DON'T MEAN ANY CHIAKI!
THAT WAS FAST HOW'D YOU FIND HER?
.....
HUH?
I KNOW YOU KNOW CHIAKI...
CHIAKI?
NEVER HEARD OF HER
WHO'S SHE?
THERE YOU ARE!

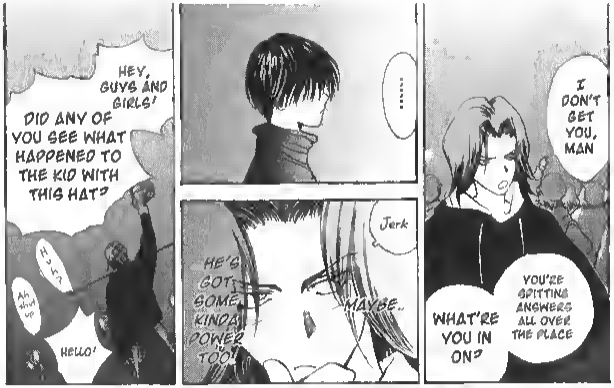
SHE SAID SHE DOESN'T KNOW HER
MAYBE YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GIRL, HUH?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS?
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO PULL?
UM, TATSUKI!

I'LL FIX THAT
HEY, KOTAROU? LEMME SEE YOUR HAND
AH, CRAP
I'VE NEVER SEEN A GIRL GO GO RED
GET A HINT AND LEAVE, ASSHOLES!
GET LOST!
SHE'S TOO PISSED, I CAN'T SEE IF THERE'S ANY OTHER COLOR IN THERE.
FINE BE ALL BROODY-- I'LL JUST CHECK HER AURA
HUNH
!


HUH?
LOOK FOR A GUY WITH A SAFETY PIN IN HIS LIP
AND A GIRL WITH RED-PURPLE HAIR


THAT'S HER!
RED-PURPLE

H-HEY!
WATCH THE HANDS, GRABBY
I'M NOT INTERESTED
!!
だ
TATSUKI?


HEY, GUYS AND GIRLS!
DID ANY OF YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO THE KID WITH THIS HAT?
HEY!
AH, WHATEVER
HELLO!
.....
HE'S GOT SOME KINDA POWER TOO!
Jerk
MAYBE..
I DON'T GET YOU, MAN
WHAT'RE YOU IN ON?
YOU'RE SPITTING ANSWERS ALL OVER THE PLACE

WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE FAST
MAYBE WE--TATSUKI?
EXIT
THAT'S THE GUY WITH THE SAFETY PIN

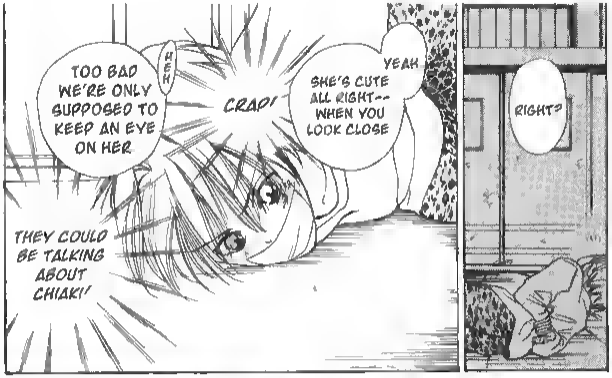
!!
WHAT NOW?
THIS ISN'T--

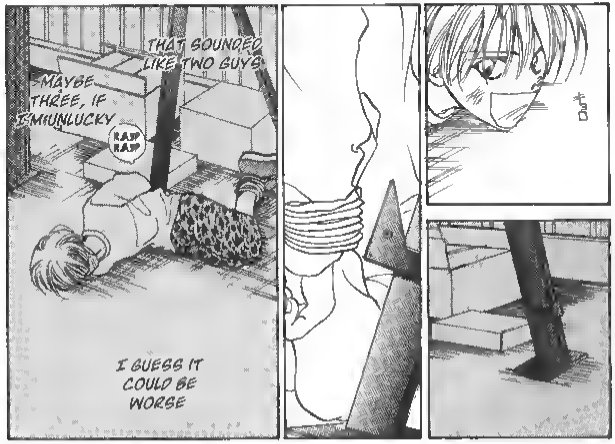
WHERE'D HE GO?
KOTAROU? HELLO?
OR NOT

A GUY?
WHERE?!
SOME GUY GRABBED HIM
BEATS ME
THEN WHAT'D YOU SEE?!
THAT LOOKS LIKE HIS CAP!

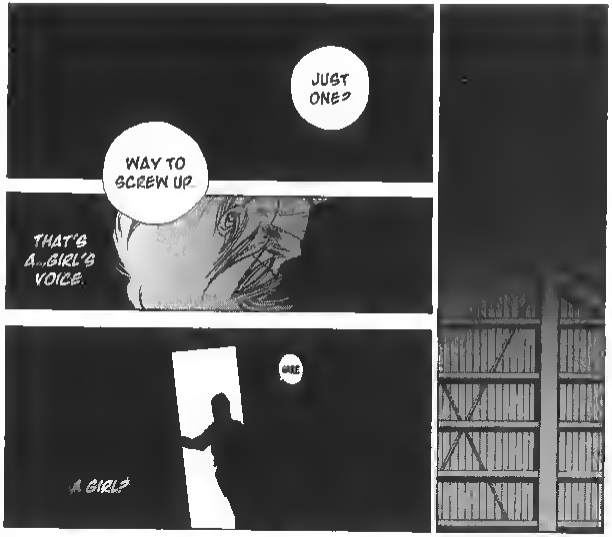
WHA
HEY!
TATSUKI!
KEEP YOUR GOODAMN HANDS OFF!
YOU HEAR ME NOW?
DAMN THAT WAS CREEPY
I GUESS IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE QUIET KIDS IN SCHOOL
SHH
WE NEED THEM TO TALK
CUT IT OUT!
JEEZ, JUST CALM DOWN!

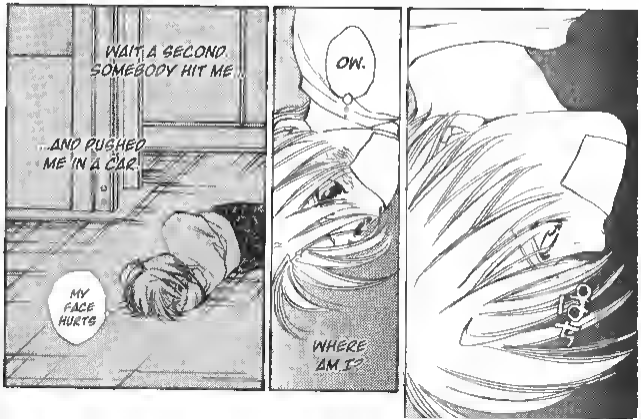
WE DON'T LIKE SNOOPY TARTS
LOOKIN' FOR SOMETHIN', BOYS?
NOT ONE BIT
THIS ONE'S YOURS, I'M PAL SITTING OUT
BAD.
SORRY, BUT YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US
DON'T TOUCH ME
SON OF A--
I SAID DON'T TOUCH ME!
HUGGH!


TOO BAD WE'RE ONLY SUPPOSED TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER
HEH
CRAP!
SHE'S CUTE ALL RIGHT-- WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSE
YEAH
THEY COULD BE TALKING ABOUT CHIAKI!
RIGHT?


THAT SOUNDED LIKE TWO GUYS.
MAYBE THREE, IF I'M UNLUCKY
RAP RAP
I GUESS IT COULD BE WORSE
Duh

CUT!
C'MON, DAMMIT!


JUST ONE?
WAY TO SCREW UP.
THAT'S A...GIRL'S VOICE.
ME
A GIRL?

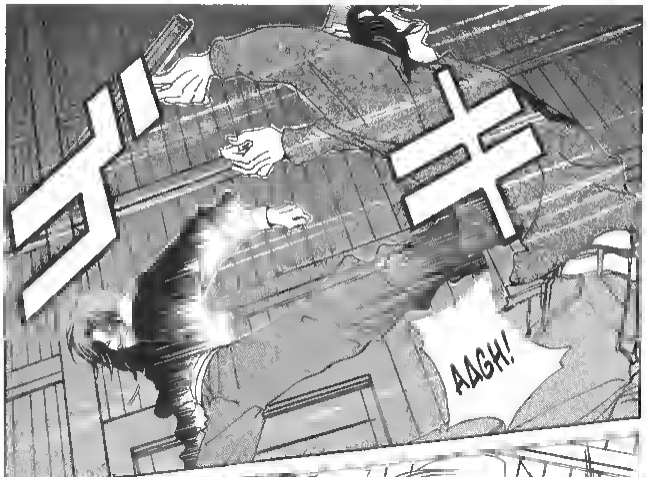

WAIT A SECOND. SOMEBODY HIT ME...
...AND PUSHED ME IN A CAR.
MY FACE HURTS
OW.
WHERE AM I?

YOU'RE DEAD!
HOLD HIM!
SON OF A
OH, GOD!
Mmph! Mmph!
BITCH
NOW YOU'RE ASKIN' FOR IT.
!!

SHIT
JUST A LITTLE MORE
ガターン
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
AGH!
THAT GIRLY BOY'S AWAKE
HEY!
DON'T MAKE ME SMASH YOUR LITTLE HEAD IN
QUIT KNOCKING SHIT OVER!
Mmph!

!!

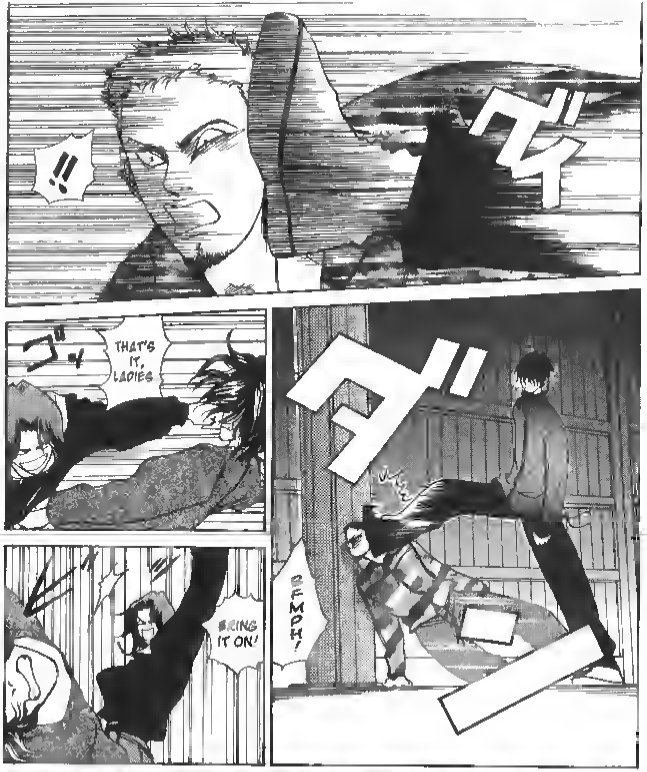
GIMME THAT THING!
BEEP
QUICK, CALL THE COPS!
GOT IT!
KOTAROU!


AAGH!

!!
WHO THE HELL--
YUUTO!

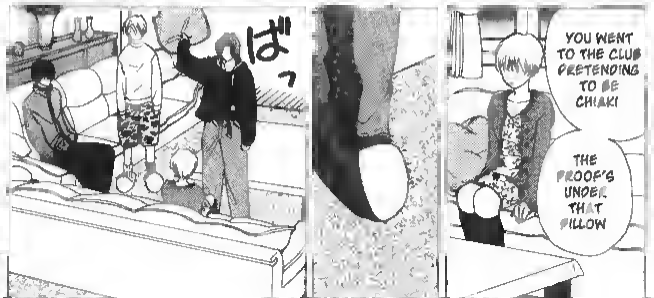
OW
WHO?
YOU OKAY?
YEAH

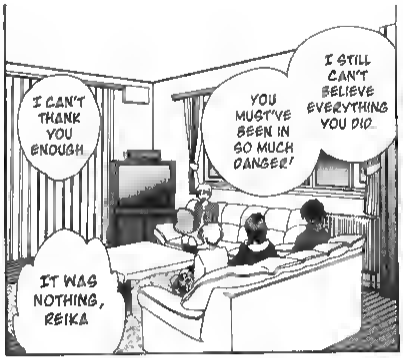
THIS IS THE POLICE!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST ON SUSPICION OF ABDUCTION OF A MINOR!
THANK GOD
ARE YOU OKAY?
CHIAKI!
LET'S GO TELL REIKA!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON HER FACE.
CASE CLOSED, I GUESS
HUNH?
YEAH
RELAX, MIGS. YOU'RE OKAY NOW
BACK IN THAT WAREHOUSE, I THOUGHT I HEARD A GIRL'S VOICE.
BUT STILL... IT'S KINDA WEIRD.
I GUESS I WAS JUST...HEARING THINGS.
IT COULDN'T'VE BEEN CHIAKI.

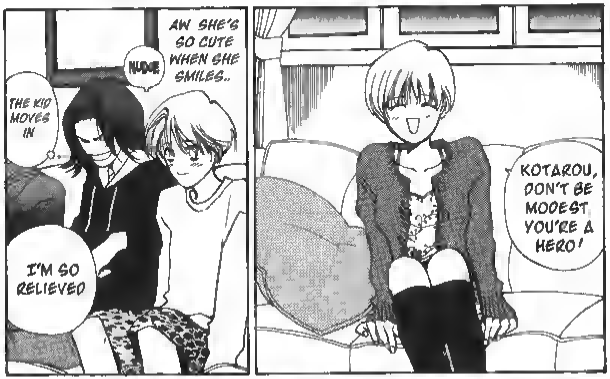

!!
ゴ
THAT'S IT, LADIES
ゴ
BRING IT ON!
ゴ
SFMPH!
...AH, I RULE

YOU WERE AT THE WARE-HOUSE
I SAW YOU
IT WAS YOU, RIGHT?
YOU SET UP THE KIDNAPPING
HUH?
CUT THE CRAP.

THEN THAT GIRL I HEARD...
WAIT.
WHAT'RE YOU...


ばっ
YOU WENT TO THE CLUB PRETENDING TO BE CHIAKI
THE PROOF'S UNDER THAT PILLOW


I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH
IT WAS NOTHING, REIKA
YOU MUST'VE BEEN IN SO MUCH DANGER!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU DID...
THE POLICE CALLED US A FEW MINUTES AGO
MY MOM AND DAD JUST LEFT

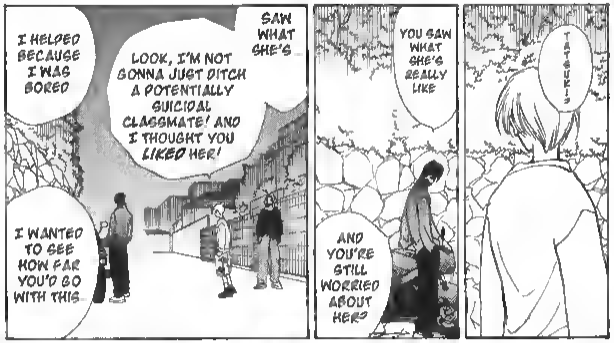

THE KID MOVES IN
NUDE
AW SHE'S SO CUTE WHEN SHE SMILES..
I'M SO RELIEVED
KOTAROU, DON'T BE MODEST YOU'RE A HERO!

...THINKING I MIGHT NOT SEE MY SISTER AGAIN
I COULDN'T SLEEP A WINK...

GO!
CAN IT
C'MON, REIKA!
YOU WOULDN'T DO THAT TO YOUR OWN SISTER!
YOU'VE ALREADY SCREWED UP MY LIFE ENOUGH TODAY
GET OUT OF MY HOUSE
LET'S GO
C'MON
WHOA
I'VE NEVER SEEN A COLOR LIKE THAT BEFORE
THAT'S WEIRD

SO?
C'MON, BOYS
BETTER CALL THE POLICE
AS IF WE'D FOLLOW YOUR ADVICE
MAYBE I DID
A WIG?
THEN YOU
MAN
SHE DID DO IT.

ACT 1


I HELPED BECAUSE I WAS BORED
LOOK, I'M NOT GONNA JUST DITCH A POTENTIALLY SUICIDAL CLASSMATE! AND I THOUGHT YOU LIKED HER!
SAW WHAT SHE'S
I WANTED TO SEE HOW FAR YOU'D GO WITH THIS
YOU SAW WHAT SHE'S REALLY LIKE
AND YOU'RE STILL WORRIED ABOUT HER?
TSUKI'S

ドン

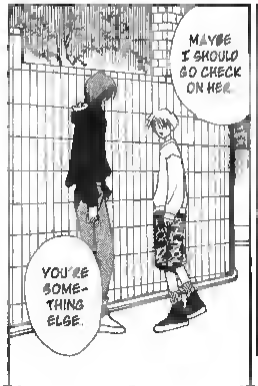
I GUESS IT WAS FUN

BUT YOUR LITTLE GIRL-FRIEND'S CRACKED

I'LL GET YOU A GIRL WHO WON'T GO ALL PSYCHO ON YA
JUST RELAX, KIDDO

HOT DAMN
I THINK I'VE GIVEN UP ON UNDER-STANDING WOMEN'

HANG IN THERE. READING YOUR AURA FORTUNE, YOU'RE DESTINED FOR BETTER
NN
I JUST
THIS SUCKS


MAYBE I SHOULD GO CHECK ON HER
YOU'RE SOME-THING ELSE.

.....

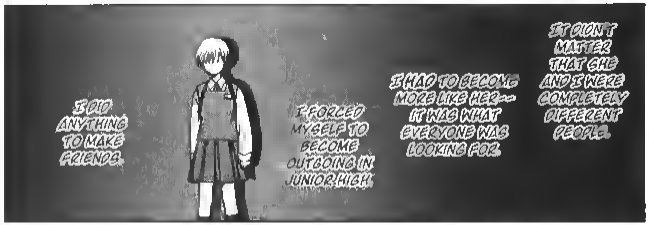
MAYBE REIKA'S SUICIDAL
HER AURA
HUH?
ER, I MEAN... HANG ON.

REIKA!
WHERE ARE YOU?
AND SO ARE YOU
IT'S SAD.
THAT'S PRETTY DEEPLY DEPRESSED
JEEZ, TATSUKI.
WHY DO YOU KEEP PICKING ON HIM?
DARK BLUE-PURPLE?

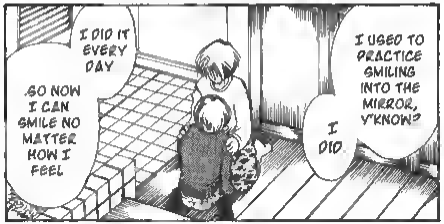
AS IF YOU CAN CALL ANYONE CRACKED!
GOD, THE THOUGHT OF SHARING GENES WITH YOU MAKES ME WANNA PUKE!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN THIS, TATSUKI.
YOU CAN'T TELL
IN THE END...
NOBODY CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT SOMEONE'S TRULY LIKE...

I WANTED MY SISTER
...TO VANISH

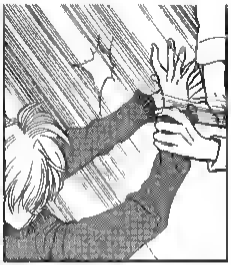
SHE HAD FRIENDS.
I DIDN'T.
EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS...
PEOPLE ALWAYS COMPARED ME TO HER.
IT'S NOT FAIR!


I DID ANYTHING TO MAKE FRIENDS.
I FORCED MYSELF TO BECOME OUTGOING IN JUNIOR HIGH.
I HAD TO BECOME MORE LIKE HER-- IT WAS WHAT EVERYONE WAS LOOKING FOR.
IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT SHE AND I WERE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

SEE?


I DID IT EVERY DAY
SO NOW I CAN SMILE NO MATTER HOW I FEEL
I DID.
I USED TO PRACTICE SMILING INTO THE MIRROR, Y'KNOW?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



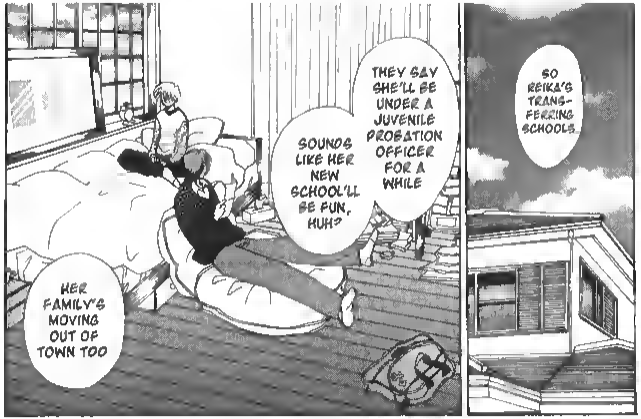
WHY WOULD YOU

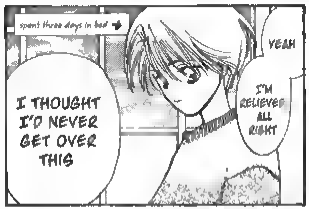
I WANTED HER TO GO
.....

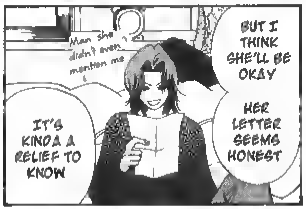
SHE JUST CRIED FOR A WHILE, AND NEVER SAID A THING.

REIKA NEVER ANSWERED ME

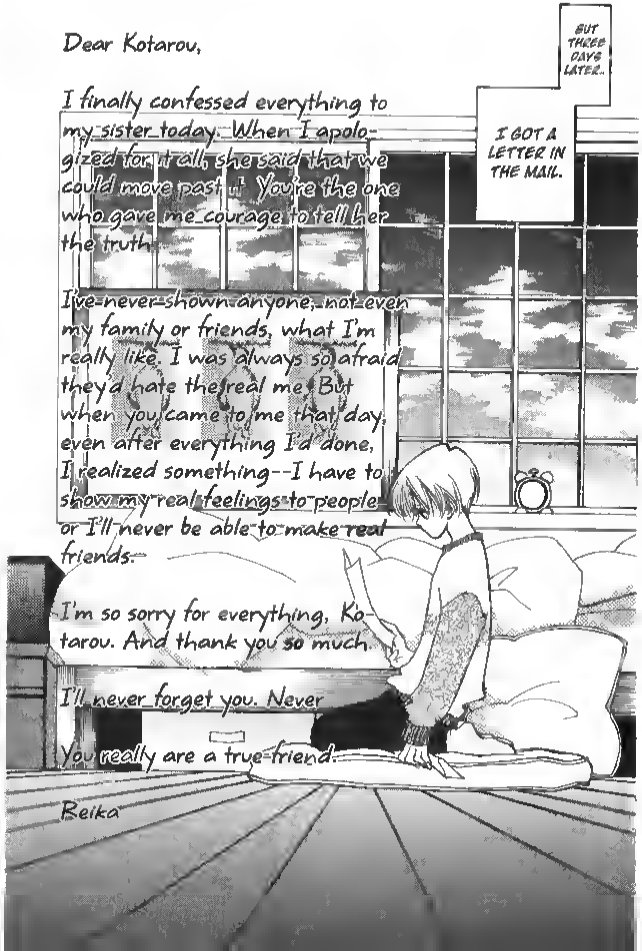
I'M A STUPID, UPTIGHT
I HATE MYSELF
I HATE THE WAY I AM!
ALL I DO IS WORRY AND I HATE IT
ALL MY STUPID FRIENDS ARE FAKE
THEY'RE NOTHING LIKE MY SISTER'S

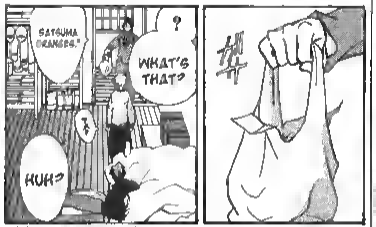

HER FAMILY'S MOVING OUT OF TOWN TOO
SOUNDS LIKE HER NEW SCHOOL'LL BE FUN, HUH?
THEY SAY SHE'LL BE UNDER A JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER FOR A WHILE
SO REIKA'S TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS


spent three days in bed
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER GET OVER THIS
YEAH
I'M RELIEVED ALL RIGHT

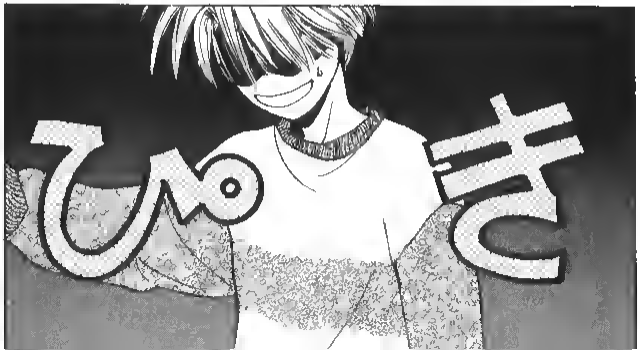

Man she didn't even mention me
IT'S KINDA A RELIEF TO KNOW
BUT I THINK SHE'LL BE OKAY
HER LETTER SEEMS HONEST

I SHOULDN'T'VE HIT HIM AND SAID ALL THAT CRAP
BUT I FEEL KINDA BAD HE DID HELP ME OUT A LOT
ANYWAY, HE'S BEEN IGNORING ME
NO
HEY
HAVE YOU TALKED TO TATSUKI SINCE THAT NIGHT?


BUT THREE DAYS LATER..
I GOT A LETTER IN THE MAIL.
Dear Kotarou,
I finally confessed everything to my sister today. When I apologized for it all, she said that we could move past it. You're the one who gave me courage to tell her the truth.
I've never shown anyone, not even my family or friends, what I'm really like. I was always so afraid they'd hate the real me. But when you came to me that day, even after everything I'd done, I realized something--I have to show my real feelings to people or I'll never be able to make real friends.
I'm so sorry for everything, Kotarou. And thank you so much.
I'll never forget you. Never.
You really are a true friend.
Reika



*Satsuma oranges or "mikan" are winter fruits in Japan

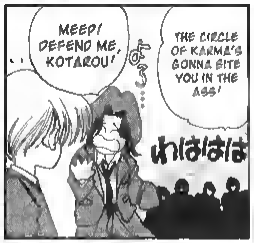


ACT 2

ACT 2

IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE I TRANSFERRED TO THIS HIGH SCHOOL IN TOKYO. I'M A NEW FACE WITH NEW FRIENDS AND I'M LOVING EVERY MINUTE OF IT.
HI, KOTAROU. LIKE THE TAPE?
The Gang On-e
LEMME BORROW IT NEXT
YEAH! YOU WERE RIGHT-- IT'S WICKED FUNNY
YOU DION'T LEAVE IT AT HOME, DID YOU?
UH-OH
GOOD MOOORNING!
HEY! MY NAME'S KOTAROU OOHIRA
スリ

THE TALL GUY'S YUUTO URUSHIYAMA. HE WAS SORTA MY FIRST FRIEND HERE IN TOKYO
BLARGH I COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT
I KEEP GETTING THESE PRANK PHONE CALLS THAT DISCONNECT WHEN I ANSWER


MEEP! DEFEND ME, KOTAROU!
THE CIRCLE OF KARMA'S GONNA BITE YOU IN THE ASS!
わはは

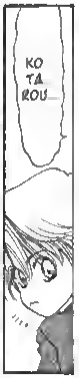
プイッ
KARMA.
WAAH!
HE'S A COMPLETE ASSHOLE TOO!

I TURNED OFF MY CELL, BUT THEN SHE CALLED MY HOME LINE!
"SHE?" SO IT'S A GIRL.
ONE OF THE FLOCK
YOU WANT TOO MANY CHICKS AT ONCE.
YOU'RE ONLY GETTING WHAT YOU DESERVE, MAN

I'D BETTER SAY IT.
UM, THANKS.

THIS WAS BY THE DOOR.
OH AND THIS IS TATSUKI OOHIRA.
HE'S THE COUSIN I'M LIVING WITH AT MY GRAMPA'S HOUSE.

HMMMM
UCK! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, SLOTHY?

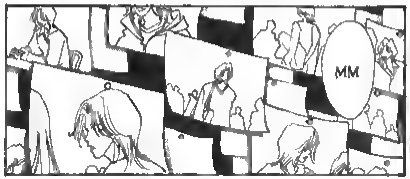

KO TA ROU...

FEH
HE'S A COMPLETE ASSHOLE!

ACT 2

WHY THE HELL DO GIRLS KEEP CRAWLING TO THAT ASS?
KOTAROU, YOU WANT SOME?
I'D RATHER CHOKE
DUDE, YOU GOT A PRESENT
WHAT'S THIS?
"TO MY DEAR YUUTO" HA HA!
NO WAY!
HM?
OI, TANAKA
THEY'RE COOKIES! MINE NOW.
!
HAGCK!

I'M NOT LOOKING AT OTHER GIRLS IT'S JUST DO YOU FEEL LIKE WE'RE BEING WATCHED?
YUUTO! ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
THAT'S THE LAMEST EXCUSE I'VE EVER HEARD!
AND QUIT LOOKING AT OTHER GIRLS WHEN I'M RIGHT HERE!

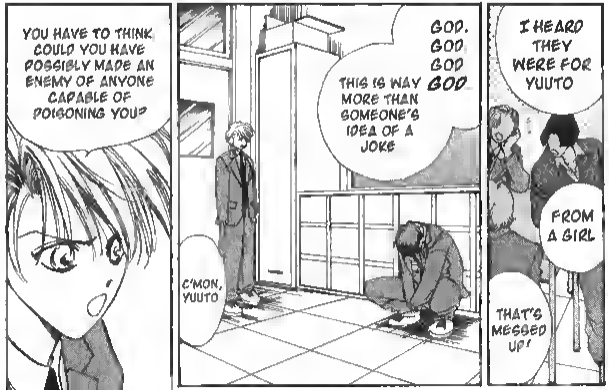

MM

YES, YUUTO

MY YUUTO

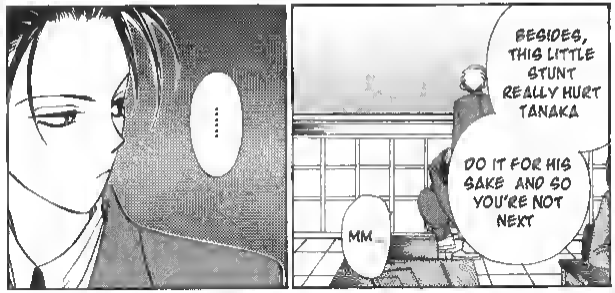
LOOK, I'M SERIOUS!
YUUTO...

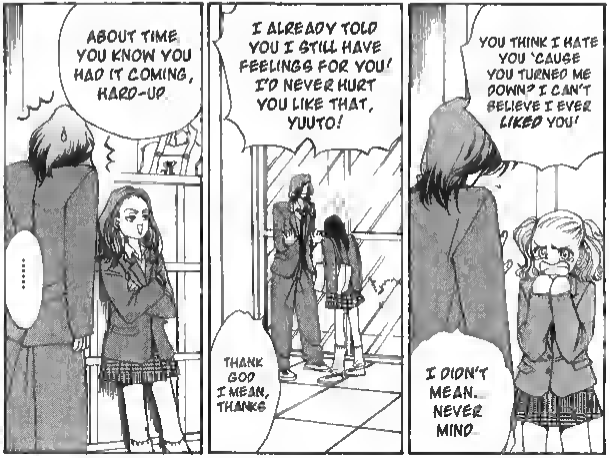
GGGH!
HGGGH!
TANAKA?!
YEAH TANAKA'S LUCKY HE ONLY ATE ONE--THEY COULD'VE KILLED HIM.
OMIGOD!
TOTALLY. THEY SAID THE COOKIES HAD PESTICIDE IN THEM!

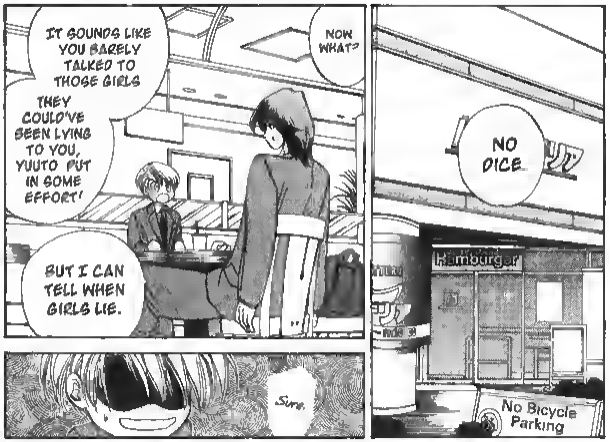

YOU HAVE TO THINK. COULD YOU HAVE POSSIBLY MADE AN ENEMY OF ANYONE CAPABLE OF POISONING YOU?
GOD. GOD. GOD. GOD.
THIS IS WAY MORE THAN SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE
C'MON, YUUTO
I HEARD THEY WERE FOR YUUTO
FROM A GIRL
THAT'S MESSED UP!

ACT 2

NOT YOU TOO! I'M NICE TO GIRLS!
THAT'S NOT THINKING!
I DUNNO. MAYBE
NICE GUYS DON'T CHEAT AND RUN, YUUTO!
I DIDN'T THINK ANY OF THEM WERE MAD ENOUGH TO KILL ME
I'VE TURNED DOWN GIRLS BEFORE AND, Y'KNOW, GOTTEN IN A FEW TIFFS WHEN THEY FOUND OUT I WAS CHEATING ON THEM--BUT NOTHING REALLY BAD
GIRLS CAN TAKE THAT REALLY PERSONALLY, YUUTO. THINK BACK ON ALL THE PEOPLE YOU'VE SCREWED OVER SO WE CAN START NARROWING DOWN THE OPTIONS. AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, USE THIS SITUATION TO GET A FREAKIN' CLUE


.....
BESIDES, THIS LITTLE STUNT REALLY HURT TANAKA
DO IT FOR HIS SAKE AND SO YOU'RE NOT NEXT
MM...


ABOUT TIME. YOU KNOW YOU HAD IT COMING, HARD-UP.
.....
I ALREADY TOLD YOU I STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU! I'D NEVER HURT YOU LIKE THAT, YUUTO!
THANK GOD I MEAN, THANKS
YOU THINK I HATE YOU 'CAUSE YOU TURNED ME DOWN? I CAN'T BELIEVE I EVER LIKED YOU!
I DIDN'T MEAN. NEVER MIND.


IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU BARELY TALKED TO THOSE GIRLS
THEY COULD'VE BEEN LYING TO YOU, YUUTO. PUT IN SOME EFFORT!
BUT I CAN TELL WHEN GIRLS LIE.
NOW WHAT?
Sure.
NO DICE.
Hamburger
No Bicycle Parking

GOOD GOD YOU'RE DESPERATE!
SO ONE SCHOOL OF PROSPECTS WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YOUR EGO?
YOU'RE A MAN WHORE!
I WASN'T TECHNICALLY DATING THOSE OTHER GIRLS, SO IT DOESN'T COUNT AS CHEATING.
JEEZ, LIGHTEN UP
MAYBE IT'S NOT A GIRL AT ALL.
EVER PISS OFF ONE OF THEIR BOY-FRIENDS?
Man, I have to check them all? T Girl's Prep. O Gakuin.
I DUNNO OR IT'S A GIRL AT ANOTHER SCHOOL

AW, C'MON
YOU MAKE ME SICK.
ANYTHING YOU GET AT THIS POINT YOU EARNED IN FULL
FORGET IT.

ACT 2

UH...
NO!
I KNOW.
BUT...A PAGER'S ALL I CAN AFFORD.
IT SUCKS TO BE BROKE.
I CAN GIVE YOU THE NUMBER-- I KINDA WANNA TEST IT.
IT'S MY NEW PAGER
OH YEAH?
A CELL PHONE OR A PHS* WOULD'VE BEEN A LOT SWEETER.
*Personal Handyphone System--a cheaper mobile phone that covers smaller areas.

GOD, JUST STOP IT!
YUUTO.
YUUTO.
STOP IT.
I MEANT, UH, YOUR PAGER'S AWESOME IT KICKS CELL PHONE ASS!
I HATE YOU

WAIT A MINUTE.
HIS AURA'S BLUE-GREEN.

YOU DROPPED SOMETHING.
HUH?
OH.

OOOH, YOU SWEET-HEART!
!!

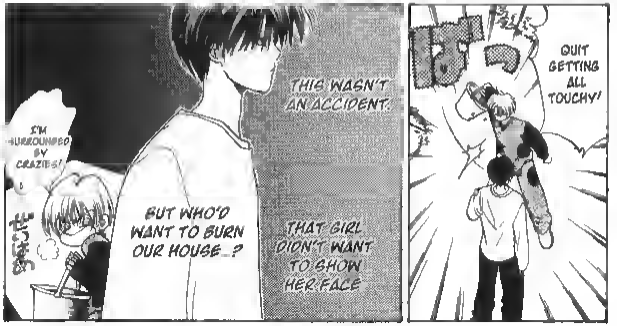
DON'T TOUCH ME!

DESPITE WHAT HE SAYS...
HE'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT ME.

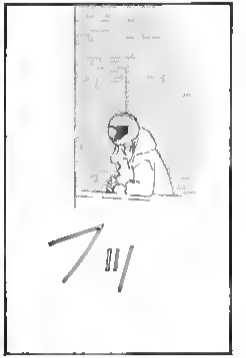
SMOKE...?
NN...
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
FIRE!
OFF YOUR ASS, KOTAROU!
NNA?
GRAMPA, WAKE UP
SLAM
I THINK THE SHED'S BURNING.

JUST CALM DOWN AND GRAMPA'LL HANDLE IT
SOMEONE CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT!
ゴオオオオ
WAAAH!
ニュウウウ
KOTAROU, MOVE!
PHEW! GOOD THING WE GOT IT BEFORE IT GREW
YEAH.

A WOMAN?
A HELMET
THE HAIR LOOKS LONG..
AND THOSE ARMS ARE THIN.
OI.
YOU HURT?
NO. NO TOUCHING.


I'M SURROUNDED BY CRAZIES!
THIS WASN'T AN ACCIDENT.
BUT WHO'D WANT TO BURN OUR HOUSE..?
THAT GIRL DIDN'T WANT TO SHOW HER FACE
QUIT GETTING ALL TOUCHY!

SOMEBODY WAS HERE.
THIS WASN'T ARSON, WAS IT?



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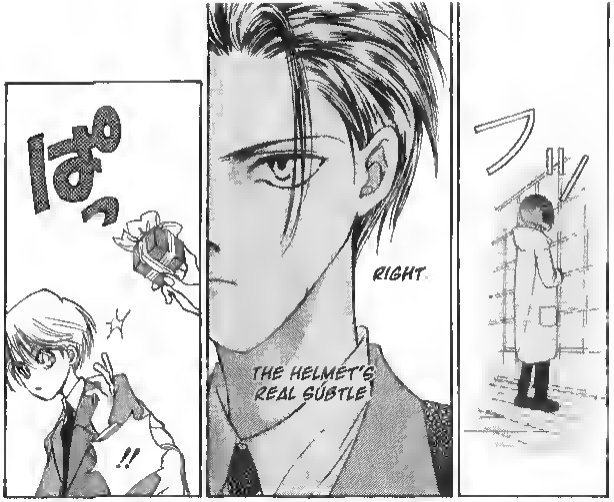
!!

CAN YOU PUT THIS BACK IN THE BATHROOM, TATSUKI?
MR. OOHIRA! WE HEARD YELLS—
EVERYTHING'S FINE SORRY TO WAKE YOU

I SHOULD LOOK

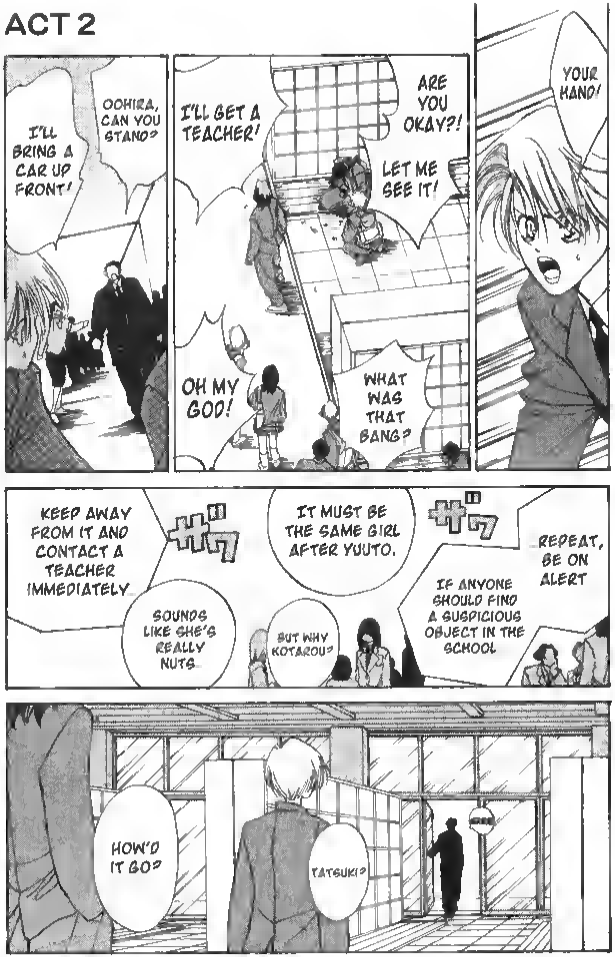

ぱっ
!!
RIGHT.
THE HELMET'S REAL SUBTLE!
フ

RATTLE
MAN...NOW I'M CRANKY.
WHA--?
THIS ISN'T...
CRACK
I COULDN'T GO BACK TO SLEEP AFTER THAT.
YEAH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
A FIRE?

I SAID GIVE IT BACK!
TUG
SO WE'VE FORGOTTEN THE POISONED COOKIES
HEY, TATSUKI! GIVE IT BACK!
THIS OOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OO WITH THAT!

♪
SOMEBODY LOVES ME!
♡
NICE, KIDOO! YOU'VE GOT A FEMALE CALLER!

ACT 2


I'LL BRING A CAR UP FRONT!
OOHIRA, CAN YOU STAND?
I'LL GET A TEACHER!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
LET ME SEE IT!
YOUR HAND!
OH MY GOD!
WHAT WAS THAT BANG?
KEEP AWAY FROM IT AND CONTACT A TEACHER IMMEDIATELY.
SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S REALLY NUTS.
IT MUST BE THE SAME GIRL AFTER YUUTO.
BUT WHY KOTAROU?
IF ANYONE SHOULD FIND A SUSPICIOUS OBJECT IN THE SCHOOL
REPEAT, BE ON ALERT
HOW'D IT GO?
TATSUKI?

!!
TATSUKI!!
WHAT

ACT 2

KOTAROU, YOUR PAGER'S BEEPING! TURN IT OFF BEFORE THE TEACHERS SNAG IT.
YEAH?
THANKS
HEY.
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SPILLED, MAN.
JUST WHAT'RE YOU HIDING?
LISTEN. I CAN SEE PEOPLE'S AURAS-- THEIR FEELINGS, INTENTIONS, THAT SORT OF THING. I KNOW ALL ABOUT HAVING A WEIRD-ASS ABILITY.
WHATEVER YOURS IS, I CAN GUARANTEE I WON'T BE SURPRISED
THAT'S WHY YOU KEEP TAKING KOTAROU'S HAND AND STUFF, RIGHT?

I KNOW A BLACK AURA MEANS PAIN.
YOU'RE NOT ALL RIGHT.
UM, LOOK.
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS MORNING. I WAS STUPID... FORGIVE ME?
I'M ALL RIGHT.
REALLY?
TAP

NO. BUT MAYBE SHE THINKS KOTAROU'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
HAVE YOU SEEN HER?
THAT'S JUST STUPID!
HUH?
BLAME THE GIRL WHO KEEPS FOLLOWING US.
THE POISON, THE FIRE, THE BOMB'S ALL HER

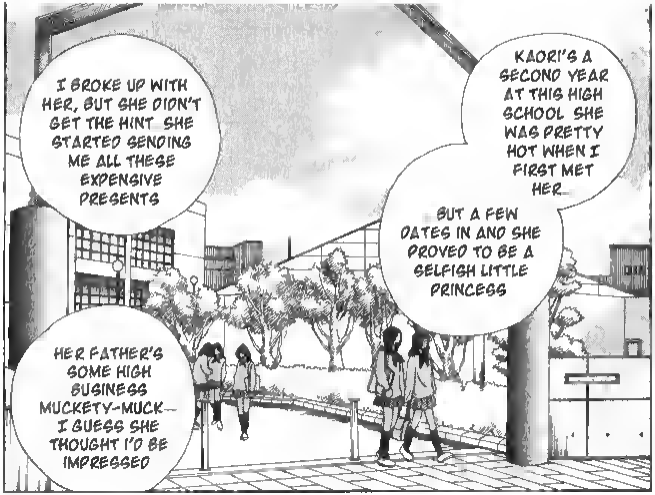
ACT 2

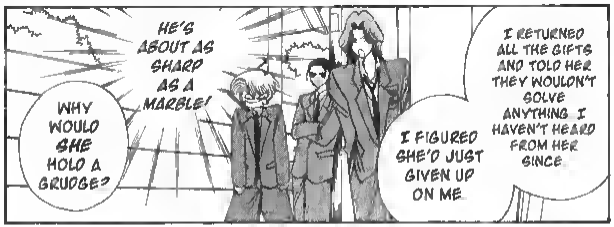
HOT DAMN, WHAT WAS THAT?
HIS AURA'S GONE ALL PURPLE
I'M THE ONE WHO'S FREAKED!
UH, HEY!
COOL--A FIGHT!
WE'RE GOOD SORRY
IS THAT YUUTO?

SCUMBAG BIBOLO!
WHOA, LOVE YOU TOO WHO PISED?
IS HE THAT AFRAID...
OF KOTAROU FINDING OUT?

ピク
MAYBE I SHOULD TELL KOTAROU, THEN...?
.....
DAMN JERK

TELL HIM AND YOU'RE DEAD!


I BROKE UP WITH HER, BUT SHE DIDN'T GET THE HINT. SHE STARTED SENDING ME ALL THESE EXPENSIVE PRESENTS
KAORI'S A SECOND YEAR AT THIS HIGH SCHOOL. SHE WAS PRETTY HOT WHEN I FIRST MET HER...
BUT A FEW DATES IN AND SHE PROVED TO BE A SELFISH LITTLE PRINCESS
HER FATHER'S SOME HIGH BUSINESS MUCKETY-MUCK— I GUESS SHE THOUGHT I'D BE IMPRESSED

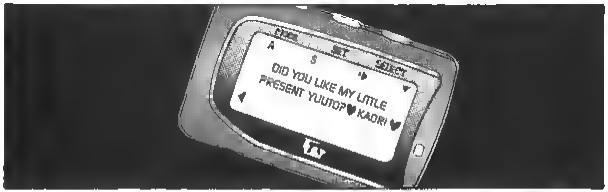

HE'S ABOUT AS SHARP AS A MARBLE!
WHY WOULD SHE HOLD A GRUDGE?
I RETURNED ALL THE GIFTS AND TOLD HER THEY WOULDN'T SOLVE ANYTHING. I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER SINCE...
I FIGURED SHE'D JUST GIVEN UP ON ME...

KAORI? SHE WAS EXPELLED AWHILE AGO
SHE WHAT?

I'M NOT YOUR SLAVE!
YOU GO ASK SOMEONE
SHE'S NOT COMING OUT

THE MESSAGE'S TO ME?
YOU SUCK! YOU SUCK! YOU SUCK! YOU SUCK!
LEMME SEE

THE RING WAS FOR YOU!
YOU CAN'T USE YOUR CELL PHONE SO YOU GIVE MY NUMBER TO YOUR CHICK BRIGADE?! I HOPE YOUR STALKER CASTRATES YOU!


DID YOU LIKE MY LITTLE PRESENT YUUTO♥ KAORI♥

!
HUH?
NO WAY. THAT KAORI?!

WAIT A SEC
PRESENT? I THINK SHE MEANT THE BOMB!
KAORI... KAORI...

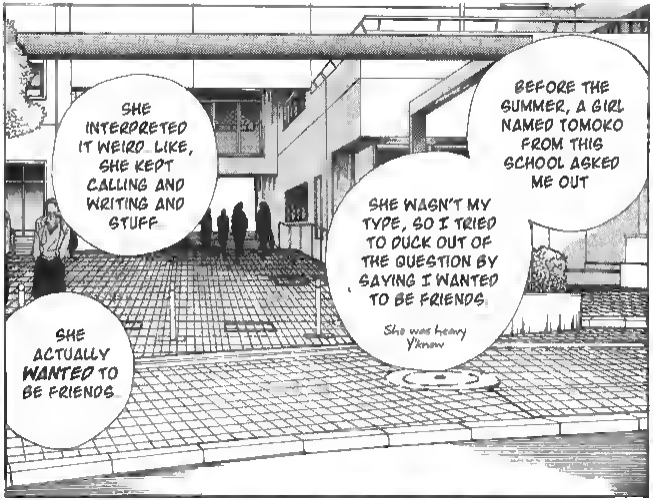
8 . 00 PM
SHIBUYA
I DON'T WANNA GO!
She'll stab me or something!
QUIT BEING SUCH A JERK...
IF YOU ACTUALLY TALK TO HER, MAYBE SHE'LL STOP TRYING TO HURT US
AH. 16 YEARS
WHEN I LOOK BACK, IT WAS A SHORT LIFE
HERE SHE COMES!
YUUTO...?
ギクッ

I HEARD SHE NEEDED MONEY TO BUY STUFF FOR HER BOYFRIEND
THE SCHOOL FOUND OUT SHE WAS WORKING AT SOME SLEAZY HOSTESS PLACE
YEAH, BUT HE STILL ENDED UP DUMPING HER.
SHE ALWAYS WAS A FLAKE HA HA!
YEEGH! IS THAT KAORI?
BEEP BEEP BEEP
OF COURSE SHE'D BE HOLDING A GRUDGE, ASS
YOU'RE KIDDING! AW, MAN!
OH, GOD!
A S B SELECT
YUUTO PLEASE COME TO SHIBUYA 109* AT EIGHT O CLOCK. ♥ KAORI ♥
EVEN I'M STARTING TO HATE YOU!

*A shopping mall popular among young people in Tokyo

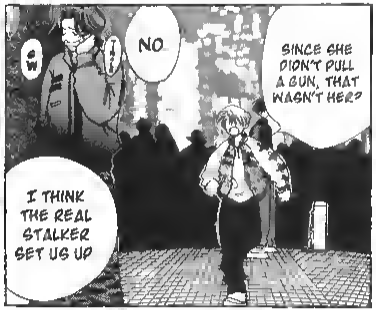
YOU'RE NOT EVEN LOOKING AT IT!
HEY!
さっ
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET.
PAYBACK FOR IGNORING ME...
I LIKE YOUR WATCH
IGNORING HER?
DIE YOU ROTTEN SCUMBALL!
AFTER YOU RUINED MY LIFE?!

WHAT THE HECK?
OMIGOD! YUUTO, IT'S REALLY YOU!
KAORI? YOU'RE NOT... MURDEROUS
THE HELMET
THAT'S THE GIRL!
I THOUGHT THAT PAGE FROM YOU WAS SOME KINDA PRANK. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN!
HUH?
HERE WE GO AGAIN.
DAMN.
TATSUKI, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?


BEFORE THE SUMMER, A GIRL NAMED TOMOKO FROM THIS SCHOOL ASKED ME OUT
SHE WASN'T MY TYPE, SO I TRIED TO DUCK OUT OF THE QUESTION BY SAYING I WANTED TO BE FRIENDS.
She was heavy. Y'know.
SHE INTERPRETED IT WEIRD. LIKE, SHE KEPT CALLING AND WRITING AND STUFF.
SHE ACTUALLY WANTED TO BE FRIENDS.

YOUR STALKER ISN'T HEAVY.
ALL THIS CRAP IS COMPLETELY YOUR FAULT!
I THOUGHT SHE'D TAKE A HINT.
IF YOU WEREN'T INTERESTED, YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD HER!
IT STARTED TO GET ANNOYING, SO I EVENTUALLY IGNORED HER COMPLETELY.
REALLY SUCKED
ESPECIALLY AFTER I KEPT MAKING EXCUSES TO AVOID HER.
CAN YOU BLAME ME FOR THAT?

A
S
Nice, stupid ♥ Tomoko ♥
TOMOKO?


NO.
SINCE SHE DIDN'T PULL A GUN, THAT WASN'T HER?
I THINK THE REAL STALKER SET US UP

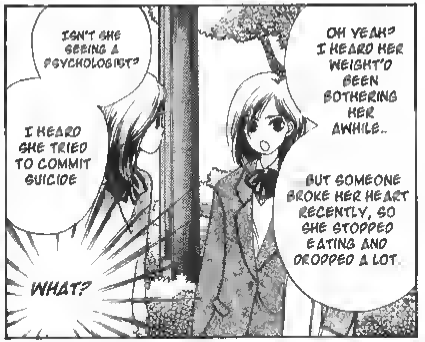
NOW WHAT?!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

I FEEL ILL.
Wait— she was Tomomi
And if this includes elementary school, too—
AH, CRAP. I'VE BEEN WITH THREE DIFFERENT TOMOKOS.

WAIT?
WHERE'D YOU PULL THAT INFO, TATSUKI?
WHA?
THE STALKER RESENTS YOU BECAUSE YOU IGNORED HER.

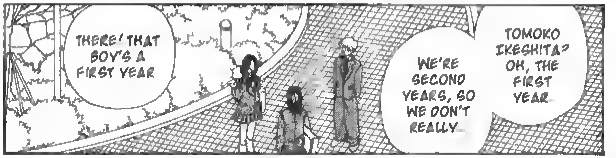
SHE TRIED TO KILL HERSELF?

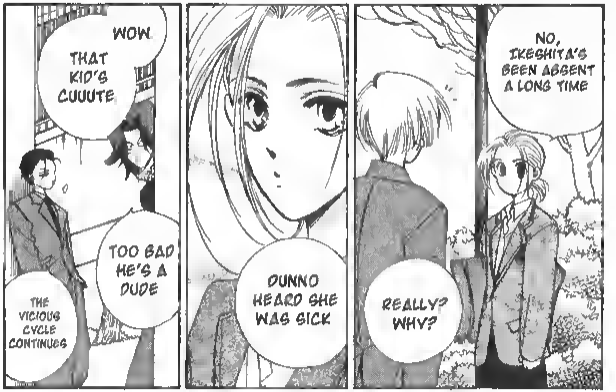
EXCUSE ME
THIS PERSON'S LOOKING FOR IKEGHITA


ISN'T SHE SEEING A PSYCHOLOGIST?
I HEARD SHE TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE
WHAT?
OH YEAH? I HEARD HER WEIGHT'D BEEN BOTHERING HER AWHILE..
BUT SOMEONE BROKE HER HEART RECENTLY, SO SHE STOPPED EATING AND DROPPED A LOT

ど-ーん

EASY, KIDDO.
HOW THE HELL DO YOU KEEP KNOWING THESE THINGS?!
AND HEY! MAYBE THOSE GIRLS KNOW TOMOKO
DID YOU SEE HER? FRIGGIN' TELL ME!


THERE! THAT BOY'S A FIRST YEAR
WE'RE SECOND YEARS, SO WE DON'T REALLY
TOMOKO IKEGHITA? OH, THE FIRST YEAR


WOW. THAT KID'S CUUUTE
TOO BAD HE'S A DUDE
THE VICIOUS CYCLE CONTINUES
DUNNO HEARD SHE WAS SICK
REALLY? WHY?
NO, IKEGHITA'S BEEN ABSENT A LONG TIME

ACT 2

UM, IS THIS . . .
TOMOKO?
LOOK, I'M REALLY SORRY I FEEL AWFUL ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED
CAN I MAKE IT UP TO YOU SOMEHOW?
HELLO?
プ!
. . . . .
CAN YOU SPEAK UP A BIT?
I'M SORRY, I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
HUH?

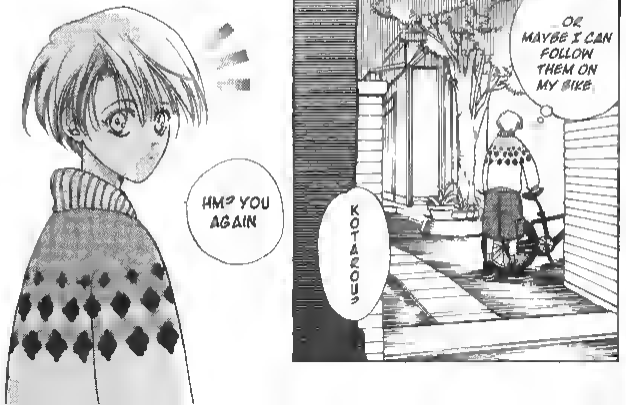
NO WAY IN HELL
KOTARO COCO
DON'T TOUCH ME!
YOU'VE GOTTA SEE HER
BEEP BEEP BEEP
HERE IT COMES!
EVEN IF I APOLOGIZED, DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE'D FORGIVE ME?

ME?!
CALL IT
OF COURSE YOU!
NNGH
プルル
プルル
THIS IS NEW
020
LOOKS LIKE A CELL NUMBER

ACT 2

BUT THAT'S NOT...YOU SUCK!
ARE YOU STUPID?
YOU SHOWING UP WITH US CAN ONLY MAKE IT WORSE
THIS REALLY IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT
THIS GIRL ISN'T SANE
I HAVE TO GO SEE HER
STILL GOT HER ADDRESS
WAIT FOR ME!

フォン
FINE! MAYBE I DON'T WANNA GO!
ムカーッ
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER


HM? YOU AGAIN
KOTAROU?
...OR MAYBE I CAN FOLLOW THEM ON MY BIKE

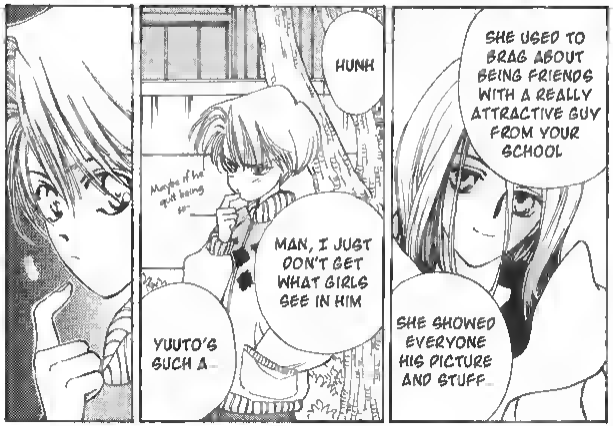
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING! I CAN'T DO THAT!
BUT I CAN.

YOU MORON! NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO YELL AT HER!
SHE TOLD ME TO KILL YOU.

HUH?

WHAT?!
KILL KOTAROU

I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING ABOUT IKESHITA...
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE FOR THAT?
YEAH
WHAT'S UP?


HUNH
Maybe if he quit being so...
MAN, I JUST DON'T GET WHAT GIRLS SEE IN HIM
YUUTO'S SUCH A...
SHE USED TO BRAG ABOUT BEING FRIENDS WITH A REALLY ATTRACTIVE GUY FROM YOUR SCHOOL
SHE SHOWED EVERYONE HIS PICTURE AND STUFF...

YUUTO?
ER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THIS IS WEIRD...
...BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM ANYTHING LIKE SHE WAS ON THE PHONE
SHE DID LOSE A LITTLE WEIGHT...
THIS IS IT.
...GOD, I DON'T WANNA DIE
CAN IT AND MOVE!

WHICH MEANS... DAMMIT!
TATSUKI?!

HUH? YOU CALLED ME TEN MINUTES AGO...DIDN'T YOU?
NO THAT ISN'T HER
NO
ARE YOU SURE?
IT'S ANOTHER SET-UP!

STOP LYING!

H-HEY!
YOU CAN'T PULL THE WOOL OVER MY EYES, PRETTY BOY.
I KNOW YOU FOLLOW YUUTO AROUND LIKE A LOST PUPPY!
DON'T YOU? DON'T YOU?!

THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL, IS IT?!
YOU LYING TRAMP!
HUH? WHAT'RE YOU--

ARE YOU COLD?
YOU'RE SHAKING

HEY.

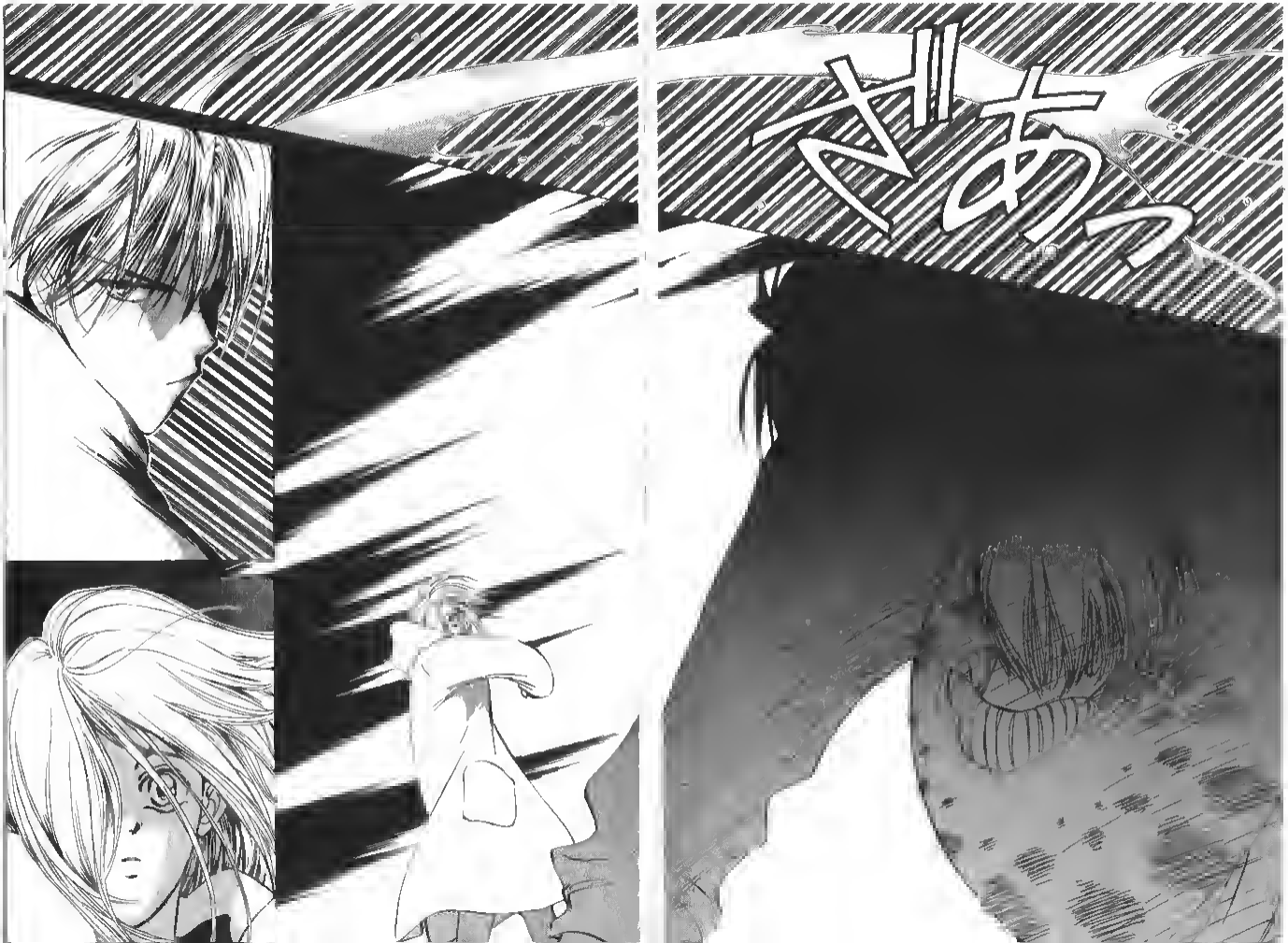
UH, NOT REALLY
WE'RE JUST IN THE SAME CLASS

YOU...
..HAVE SOME SORT OF RELATIONSHIP WITH YUUTO, RIGHT?

I TRANSFERRED TO TOKYO LAST MONTH
YUUTO'S KINDA TALKATIVE, SO HE CAME UP TO MEET ME RIGHT AWAY.
WE GET ALONG PRETTY WELL, I GUESS.

THIS GUY'S THE STALKER?!
STOP IT!
D-DON'T COME NEAR ME!
I DIDN'T
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!
SULFURIC ACID
TWIST
SPLASH
ONCE YOU'RE OUT OF THE PICTURE...
YUUTO WILL FINALLY NOTICE ME
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT'S THAT?
HEY!

!!
YOU MAKE ME SICK!
CLINGING TO YUUTO!
THE BOY WITH THE STUPID GIRLY FACE!
LICKING HIS GOOOAMN SHOES!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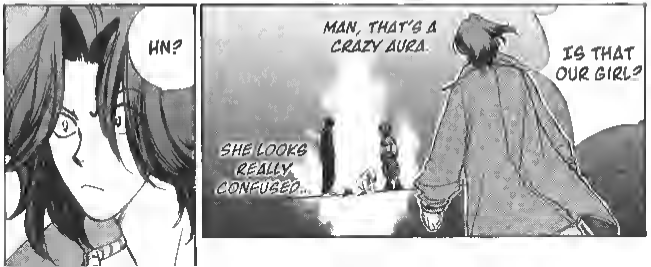
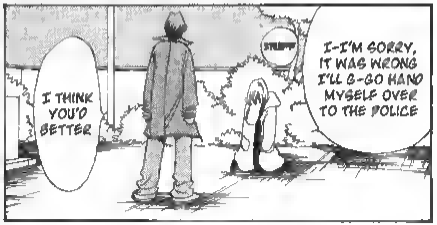
C'MON, THAT'S ENOUGH!
HE'S DOWN, ALL RIGHT?
TATSUKI!
IS KOTAROU THERE?


HN?
MAN, THAT'S A CRAZY AURA.
IS THAT OUR GIRL?
SHE LOOKS REALLY CONFUSED...

TA...
TATSUKI?

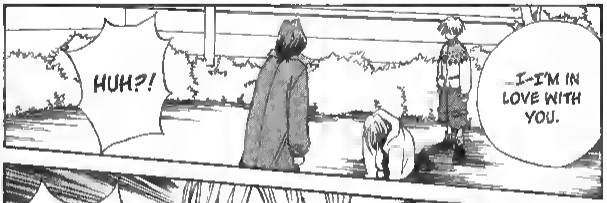
CRAP, I THINK HE'S SERIOUS
IT WAS SIGNED WITH A GUY'S NAME WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?
I SENT YOU A LETTER ASKING YOU TO MEET ME, BUT YOU NEVER CAME
IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN STALKING ME? DID YOU STALK THOSE OTHER GIRLS AND KOTAROU TOO?

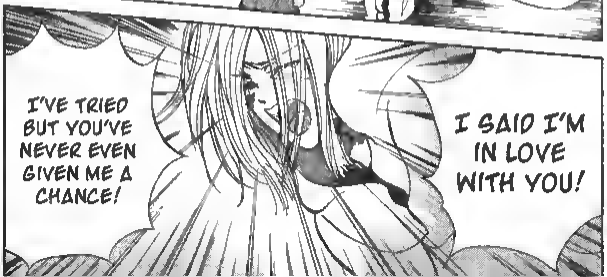
I WANTED YOU TO FIND ME
SO I USED IKESHITA'S NAME
I FIRST SAW YOU IN IKESHITA'S PHOTO-GRAPHS
I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU...
ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER, AND EVENTUALLY I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF
I LEARNED EVERYTHING I COULD ABOUT YOU
LIKE HOW YOUR MICHELLE GUN BLEPHANT IS ON TOP OF THE CD RACK IN YOUR ROOM
HOLY FEJEEZUS!


I THINK YOU'D BETTER
STUFF!
I-I'M SORRY, IT WAS WRONG I'LL G-GO HAND MYSELF OVER TO THE POLICE

ALL RIGHT, LET'S HEAR IT!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?
DID I MURDER YOUR FAMILY IN ANOTHER LIFE OR SOMETHING?!

WHAAA?
IT'S THE DUDE FROM TOMOKO'S SCHOOL!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE THE NUTBAR!


HUH?!
...I-I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.

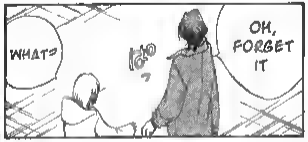

I'VE TRIED BUT YOU'VE NEVER EVEN GIVEN ME A CHANCE!
I SAID I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU!

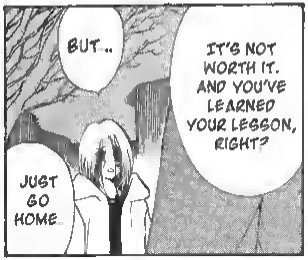
JUST HOW MUCH DO I MEAN TO

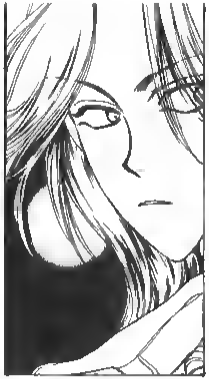
...DAMN.
NN

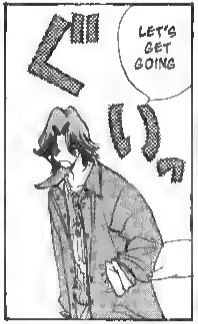
.....
OKAY

AND NEVER DO THAT STUFF AGAIN

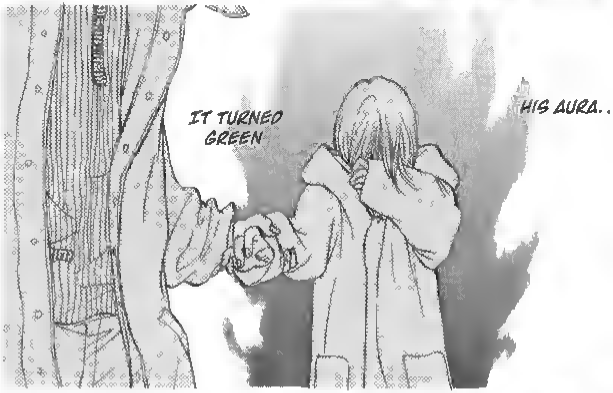

WHAT?
OH, FORGET IT

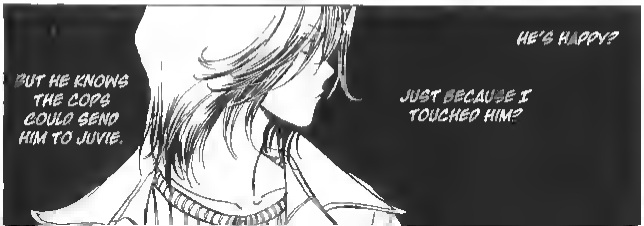

BUT..
IT'S NOT WORTH IT. AND YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON, RIGHT?
JUST GO HOME




LET'S GET GOING

I FEEL A LITTLE SORRY FOR HIM
I'M SORRY
UH, RIGHT

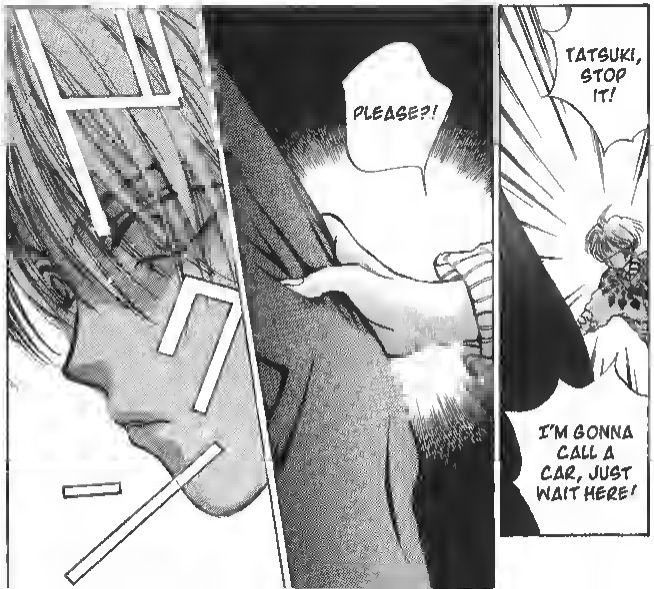

IT TURNED GREEN
HIS AURA..


HE'S HAPPY?
BUT HE KNOWS THE COPS COULD SEND HIM TO JUVIE.
JUST BECAUSE I TOUCHED HIM?

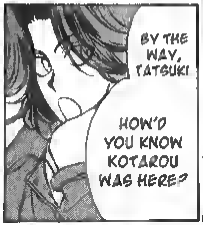
ACT 2

I'VE GOT MY BIKE I'M FINE
WANNA HITCH A RIDE WITH ME?
YOU CAN'T DRIVE YOUR BIKE LIKE THAT!

WHAT ACID?
EW
JUST HURRY UP AND CALL AN AMBULANCE!

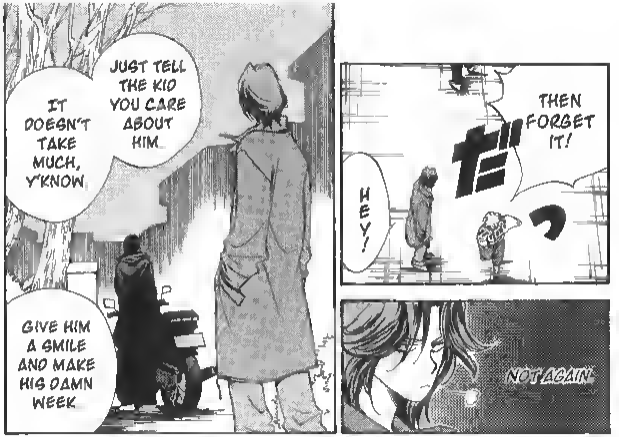

PLEASE?!
TATSUKI, STOP IT!
I'M GONNA CALL A CAR, JUST WAIT HERE!

I'M KIDDING JEEZ
YOU'RE SICK!
And I almost thought you...


BY THE WAY, TATSUKI
HOW'D YOU KNOW KOTAROU WAS HERE?

A DAMN SHAME
IF HE'D BEEN A GIRL, I WOULD'VE GIVEN HIM A SHOT
HEY..MAYBE YUUTO'S PRETTY GENTLE, AFTER ALL

!
BAH
I KNOW IT WAS ESP, JUST SAY IT
.....
DID HE HIT YOU WITH THAT ACID?!
TATSUKI-- YOUR BACK!


JUST TELL THE KID YOU CARE ABOUT HIM.
IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH, Y'KNOW.
GIVE HIM A SMILE AND MAKE HIS DAMN WEEK.

THEN FORGET IT!
HEY!

NOT AGAIN.

PAIN, HEADACHE-- THE WORKS.
THAT'S A NASTY AURA.

HMPH.
THIS IS REALLY STARTING TO BOTHER ME. IS HE MASOCHISTIC?

YOU...

WHY WON'T YOU LET ME FIX ANYTHING?
I'M ONLY TRYING TO...
YOU KEEP GETTING HURT PROTECTING ME, AND I KNOW IT'S 'CAUSE I'M ST-STUPID

SERIOUSLY. HE TOOK ACID FOR YOU, KID
Y'KNOW?
I DIDN'T THINK HE REALLY HATED ME
YEAH, RIGHT. THANKS FOR TRYING.
I DON'T THINK HE HATES YOU.
WE CALLED EACH OTHER "TAK-KUN" AND "KOTA."
THINKING BACK, IT WAS KINDA BABYISH.
.....

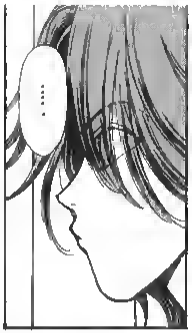
HEY, MAN
HE WASN'T...
TATSUKI WASN'T ALWAYS SUCH A DICK.
WE USED TO BE REALLY CLOSE, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT
I WAS SO HAPPY IT WAS LIKE I'D FINALLY GOTTEN MY VERY OWN BROTHER
Crawfish!
I STILL REMEMBER THAT FIRST SUMMER TATSUKI VISITED

ACT 2
!
ALL RIGHT. HAND IT OVER.
I'M FINE
JUST SHUT UP AND LET ME DO IT!
IT'S IRRITATING WATCHING YOU TRY
KORATOK

Ha ha ha
THE NEXT DAY, TANAKA--THE CLASSMATE WHO ATE THE POISONED COOKIES--CAME BACK TO SCHOOL IN ONE PIECE.
THINGS FINALLY STARTED TO GO BACK TO NORMAL
LET'S GO, KOTAROU.
COMING
!

ACT 3
HAZUKI!
OH, GOD-- PLEASE DON'T DIE!

OH, HEY, SENPAI
Ha ha!
YUUTO!



Upperclassman
NO! AAGH!
MOVE IT!
KOTAROU, I MAY DIE PROTECTING THIS DOOR
YEAH? THEN LET'S SEE
UH, NOTHING
WHAT'RE YOU HIDING IN THAT ROOM?
AND WHAT'S THAT GRIN ALL ABOUT?

OH HO
HMM?

こんから
OI..
Entrance Following
HUH?
SO GOOD LUCK!
ガリ
★ACT 3 END★

ACT 3
THIS CITY'S A BLACK HOLE FOR CASH--I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH EVERYTHING COSTS HERE
I CAN'T JUST ASK MY PARENTS TO SEND MORE
AND I'D NEVER ASK GRAMPA
YOU'RE GETTING A JOB?
1 - D
YEAH. AT THE LOCAL CONVENIENCE STORE.
I MOVED IN WITH MY GRAMPA IN TOKYO A LITTLE OVER A MONTH AGO
MY NAME IS KOTAROU OOHIRA. I'M A FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND I'M COMPLETELY BROKE
THEY'D BE HAPPY TO GIVE GIFTS TO A FLATTERING LITTLE PRETTY BOY.
THIS IS YUUTO URUSHIYAMA, MY CLASSMATE. HE HAS ROCK-BOTTOM MORALS AND DIRELY NEEDS A MUZZLE.
Office ladies have plenty of money.
NAH; YOU'RE GOING AT IT ALL WRONG, KID.
WHAT YOU NEED IS A SUGAR MAMA.
SIGH
Fuck

ACT 3
SORRY, SIR.
SLOSH
SLOSH
YOU AGAIN, OOHIRA? JEEZ
WIPE IT UP
CRASH
Huge Sale!
OW!
NN...
I'M NOT BECOMING A PROSTITUTE!
OI.
Though you may attract a few pedophiles.
YOU'D AT LEAST GET MEALS AND CLOTHES FOR YOUR FACE
むっ
AND HERE WE HAVE ASSFACE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS COUSIN TATSUKI.
DO HIS PARENTS SEND HIM ENOUGH MONEY?
I'M UNFORTUNATELY FORCED TO BOARD WITH HIM AT GRAMPA'S.
YOU DESERVE NOTHING BUT PAIN!
SO DO YOU WANT TO SELL YOURSELF OR NOT?
YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
Move it

THIS GUY'S REALLY COOL!
WHOA.
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH
THE OLD CREEP DIDN'T HAVE TO YELL AT YOU LIKE THAT
YAH!
PLEASE DON'T MAKE HIM MADDER!
IS HE A COLLEGE STUDENT?
OOHIRA
MAN, HE'S ALL SLICK AND STUFF
I WANNA BE LIKE HIM WHEN I GROW UP

CRAP!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I... I'M...
!
HEH
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, SIR I'M REALLY SORRY
WIPE THE MAN OFF!
AS YOU BID, MY LIEGE!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT, WAAAH!
OH! I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR--HE'S DISABLED
OOHIRA! LOOK WHAT YOU DID!

ぽわ～ん
SO HIS NAME'S SHUICHI OKAMOTO HE'S A SOPHOMORE AT K UNIVERSITY MAJORING IN ENGLISH LITERATURE
PLUS HE'S WICKED NICE I WHACKED HIM WITH GARBAGE JUICE AND HE DIDN'T EVEN MIND
HE'S TALL AND HAS HAIR I ASPIRE TO!
SHUT YOUR DIRTY MOUTH!
SHUICHI'S NOT THAT KIND OF--
C'MON A COLLEGE GUY COMING TO SEE YOU EVERY DAY? HE'S GAY, KOTAROU GAY! AND I THINK HE WANTS A PIECE
WASSAT?
DID HE TELEPHONE YOU JUST TO BREATHE HEAVY, TOO?
TATSUKI

SO GRAVITY STRIKES AGAIN...
OOHIRA! WHAT IS IT WITH YOU AND FAILURE?!
AAAH, I'M SORRY!
Huge Sale!
TAP
I-I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY, SIR
YO.
WORKING HARD?
HEY!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO FORGET IT
YEEGH!
EVEN HIS PERFECT UNCLOGGED PORES ARE COOL!
THAT GUY I SPLASHED ACTUALLY CAME BACK!

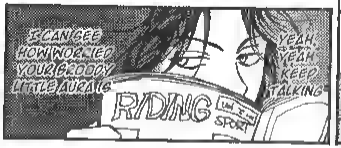
ACT 3
DON'T FOLLOW ME!
KOTA-ROOOU
AW, BUT I'M JUST WORRIED 'BOUT YA.
KNOWING THAT A BIG, BAD MAN IS ON THE PROWL FOR MY ADORABLE LITTLE BUDDY...
GOD, JUST THE THOUGHT'LL KEEP ME UP AT NIGHT.
JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER, OKAY?
SORRY! ALIEN ABDUCTION.
LATE AGAIN, OOHIRA!
STUPID YUUTO. AS IF SHUICHI WOULD ACTUALLY--
Uchi
Feh.
KOTAROU'S FROM THE COUNTRY.
THE EXCITEMENT OF SEEING A COLLEGE STUDENT SCRAMBLES HIS BRAIN.
BACK ME UP ON THIS ONE, YEAH?
MOM.
I FOUND HER.
Mm-h
Mm-h
Mm~
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT ANYMORE-- YOU CAN FINALLY SEE YOUR LITTLE GIRL AGAIN.

WOW.
I'M FLATTERED, KOTAROU AT LEAST LET ME BUY YOU DINNER FIRST
BUT DEEP INSIDE...
...I CAN SEE SOME SORT OF BLACK
YELLOW-GREEN THAT'S A RELIEF, I THINK. KINDA OOO
YOU CAN'T HIDE IT FROM ME, BUDDY
AND THAT FLICK OF ANGRY RED'S PROBABLY FOR ME--MIGHT'VE BEEN OFF ABOUT THE GAY THING
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING NASTY DEEP DOWN

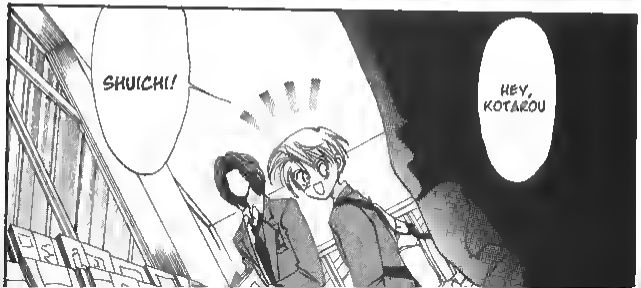
AND HIS AURA SEEMS PRETTY CALM, AT LEAST
HUNH. KOTAROU WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT THE GOOD HAIR
IS THIS THE GUY, KOTAROU? THE ONE YOU'RE THINKING OF CHANGING ORIENTATIONS FOR?
TIME TO INSPIRE SOME AWKWARD-NESS
WHA--?!
IS THAT RIGHT?
YEAH-- HE CAN'T SHUT UP ABOUT YOU AT SCHOOL SAYS HE'S NEVER BEEN SO IMPRESSED BY A GUY
Y-YUUTO! KILL! MAIM!

HE WAS ALREADY HERE WHEN I WALKED IN
GO BOTHER HIM

TATSUKI! IF YOU'RE HERE TO START SOMETHING--
I WANTED A SODA THIS PLACE IS CLOSE.


I CAN SEE HOW NOR-MIE YOUR BODY LITTLE AURA IS
YEAH YEAH KEEP TALKING
RYDING

YAAAAAH!
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
Where? How?
RYDING
OOH, VULGARITIES IN FRONT OF A CUSTOMER THAT'S BAD STORE POLICY, YESSIREE


SHUICHI!
HEY, KOTAROU

HAZUKI..

HAZUKI
Sale
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GIRL'S NAME
COULD YOU TELL, OR WAS IT JUST ME?
WAIT UP, MAN I THINK WE NEED TO TALK
SOMETHING WAS OFF ABOUT THAT OKAMOTO GUY.

WHAT'S A HAZUKI?
NEVER HEARD OF IT! AND LET GO!
NOW LEAVE OR IT'S THE GARBAGE JUICE!

BUT WHAT GIRL?
YOU'RE NOT EVEN LISTENING!
not even listening

.....
LATER, KOTAROU
HOO! THAT WAS A WEIRD ONE

DAMN!
HE MURMURED SOMETHING
I COULDN'T MAKE IT OUT
SHUICHI! BUT--
I'M GOING TO DANCE ON YOUR GRAVE!
I'M NOT SURE I LIKE KOTAROU'S MAGNIFIER

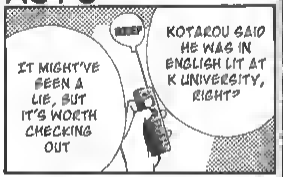
!!
YOU WERE STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO IT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
CAN'T FIND THE CANNED COFFEE
SHOW ME

MAN!
THIS PLACE IS A CASTLE!
WAIT.
HE DIDN'T..
THEY SAID HE LEFT AN HOUR AGO.
SHUICH!
HAVE YOU EATEN YET?
THERE'S FOOD AT MY PLACE
I'M SORRY ABOUT MY STUPID FRIENDS THEY DIDN'T--
HEY YOU OUT FOR THE NIGHT?
WOULD YOU MIND DOING ME A FAVOR AND HUMORING HER?
I TOLD MY MOM ABOUT YOU WE HAVEN'T HAD GUESTS IN A WHILE, SO SHE REALLY WANTED TO INVITE YOU OVER
SHE GOT ALL EXCITED AND STARTED COOKING-- I TOLD HER I HADN'T ASKED YOU YET, BUT SHE WOULDN'T HEAR IT
CREEE
UM, HELLO!
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S MAKING
FREE FOOD, FREE FOOD! ♥
SHE'S THROUGH THERE GO AHEAD
HERE?
NO MAYBE HE'S ON OVERTIME
BUT I JUST CALLED THE STORE
KOTAROU HASN'T COME HOME YET
DID HE TELL YOU HE WAS GOING SOMEWHERE AFTER WORK?
TATSUKI?

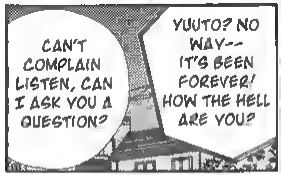
HAZUKI?
AAAH...
WHAT?!
SHE'S HERE, MOM
I BROUGHT HAZUKI
!!
...HAZUKI!
MY BABY HAZUKI!

IT'S LIKE SOME KINDA...
THIS IS WEIRD
WHA--?
MM
MM
MM
WHO'S THAT?
HUH?

ACT 3


KOTAROU SAID HE WAS IN ENGLISH LIT AT K UNIVERSITY, RIGHT?
IT MIGHT'VE BEEN A LIE, BUT IT'S WORTH CHECKING OUT

I HAVE AN OLDER LADY FRIEND AT THAT SCHOOL.
She's a kicker. Great at parties.

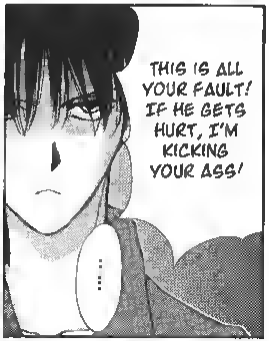

YUUTO? NO WAY-- IT'S BEEN FOREVER! HOW THE HELL ARE YOU?
CAN'T COMPLAIN LISTEN, CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

WELL, AT LEAST HE'S WORRIED
HE WOULDN'T'VE COME TO MY PLACE IF HE WASN'T.
OKAMOTO'S DRIVING A BLACK BMW, I THINK
THAT'S ALL I FOUND OUT

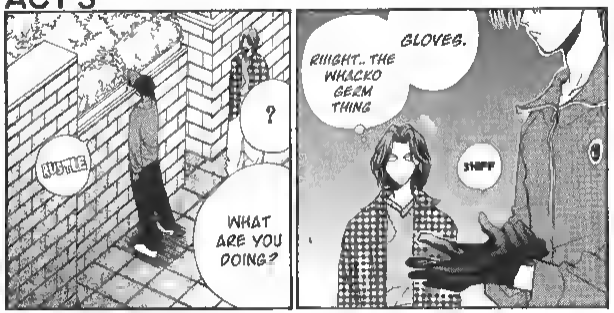
AH, C'MON WHY SWITCH TEAMS WHEN YOU'RE BATTING A THOUSAND?
A GIRL I KNOW IS INTERESTED YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE HE LIVES, DO YOU?
SHUICHI OKAMOTO? YEAH, I KNOW THE GUY GREAT HAIR
SOUNDS LIKE LITTLE YUUTO'S DISCOVERED THE UNTAPPED REALM OF PRETTY BOYS
My my

STUPID, IGNORANT, GULLIBLE LITTLE DUMBASS!
AND I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T PICK HIM UP WHEN WE KNEW OKAMOTO WAS HANGING AROUND THAT PLACE!
WHAT PART OF "YOU'RE A PEDOPHILE'S DREAM COME TRUE" DOESN'T HE GET?!

I JUST WENT THE OTHER CLERKS DON'T KNOW.
LET'S GO TO THE STORE MAYBE SOMEONE THERE--


THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! IF HE GETS HURT, I'M KICKING YOUR ASS!

ACT 3


MUTTER
?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
RIIIGHT.. THE WHACKO GERM THING
GLOVES.
SHIFF

!!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE'S HOME
CHIRP
THEN WHERE THE HECK DID HE
THE KEY!
HOW DID HE
CHIRP
MAN I WANNA KNOW HIS POWER
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S FRIGGIN' HANDY

IT'S REALLY DARK IN THERE
BIG PLACE
SURE--IN MEGURO. KAMI-MEGURO, ACTUALLY.

WHAT'S SHE DOING?
A GIRL.

I GUESS WE CAN BREAK A WINDOW
I DUNNO, TATSUKI.

COME TO THINK OF IT...
A LOT OF THESE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN IN KAMAKURA
SLIP
KAMAKURA?
C'MON, BIG BROTHER!
LET'S GO TO KAMAKURA!
MAMA
WAIT! WHAT'D YOU SAY?
Nagatani Kamakura-shi
AND THAT'S THE ADDRESS
HUH?
HE'S THERE

HAZUKI OKAMOTO
OKAMOTO'S LITTLE SISTER
READ THE NAME, IDIOT.
SO, HAZUKI'S HIS LITTLE SISTER
SHE'S NOT BAD CONSIDERING HER LIKENESS TO MY HETEROSEXUAL MAN-FRIEND!
LOOKS ABOUT A YEAR UNDER US
SHE MUST'VE BEEN THE ONE WITH THE KEY.
WISH SHE WASN'T RELATED TO HER CREEPY-ASS BROTHER.
YES, SWIMSUIT!
HEY!
IT'S KOTAROU IN DRAG!

I JUST WISH YOU'D TOLD ME IN THE FIRST PLACE
I WOULDN'T HAVE TURNED YOU DOWN
WHAT'S WEARING A DRESS IF IT'LL HELP YOUR MOTHER GET BETTER?
THOUGH I HATE DRESSES
.....
SHUICHI, I REALLY HAVE TO GO HOME!
NO WAY!
IS IT ELEVEN O'CLOCK ALREADY?!
GO HOME?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUH?

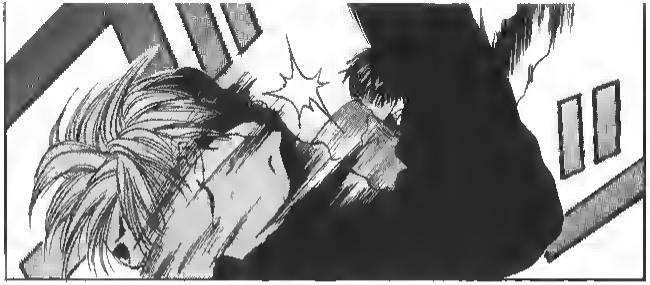
YOU DID FINE
I COULD BARELY TELL IT WAS YOU
I HAVEN'T SEEN MY MOM SMILE LIKE THAT SINCE MY SISTER DIED
UM, SHUICHI?
I'M NOT SURE IT WORKED
SHUT
MAYBE SHE CAN TELL I'M A GUY-- I'M PRETTY MASCULINE, Y'KNOW
NO, I'M OKAY
IF YOU REALLY THINK IT'LL HELP HER RECOVERY
THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS, KOTAROU I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO CREEPED OUT BY IT ALL

I NEVER WANT YOU GOING OUTSIDE AGAIN, HAZUKI.
THE LAST TIME I LET YOU .
YOU GOT IN THAT ACCIDENT AND MADE YOUR MOTHER CRY.
I THINK HE'S CRAZY.
WHAT?
OH MY GOD.
DON'T BOTHER
I ALREADY LOCKED THEM ALL.
IT WON'T OPEN!
I TOOK THE LIBERTY
YOU WON'T NEED IT WHEN I BUY YOU ALL THE PRETTY THINGS YOU WANT
YOU KNOW I'M NOT YOUR SISTER!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
DON'T TOUCH ME!

YOU ARE HOME
HAZUKI.
MY SCHOOL UNIFORM!
!!
CLASH
TH- THAT'S NOT FUNNY.
UM

HAZUKI
!!
LET ME GO!!!
STOP IT!
I'M NOT... DON'T!
!
SAY IT, HAZUKI.
SAY "BIG BROTHER."
DON'T...!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
GET THE HELL OFF ME!
YOU STUPID ASSHOLE!

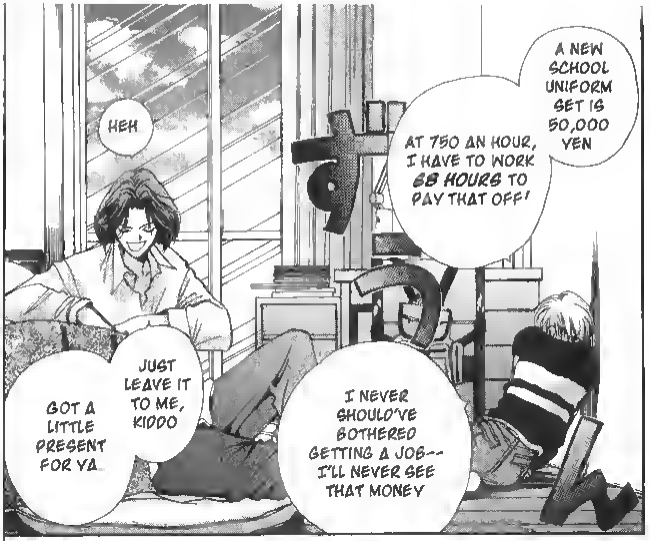
I CAN'T!
PLEASE...!
SHUT YOUR GODDAMN MOUTH!
TATSUKI!
THE CAR THAT HIT HER KILLED HER!
ビリ!!
STOP BEING SO DAMN BLIND!
I'M NOT HAZUKI!
HAZUKI DIED, REMEMBER?!
YOU SAID YOU SAW IT HAPPEN!
HAZUKI...
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO SHE'S NOT COMING BACK!
SHUT UP



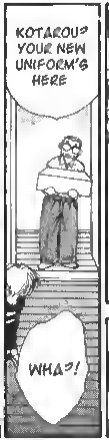
STOP IT!
YOU'RE GONNA KILL HIM IF YOU DON'T STOP!
TATSUKI!

SHUICHI
YO, KOTA-ROU
IS HE OKAY?
I-I DUNNO ANYMORE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO TATSUKI?
HIS AURA'S BLEEDING PAIN
AND THERE'S SOME SORT OF CONFUSION IN THERE.
MAN, I HOPE HE DION'T GET INJURED AGAIN.
BIG BROTHER, WAIT UP!
I'M SORRY, KOTAROU.
I DIDN'T...
FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY GOTTEN HER BACK.
WHERE IS SHE?
WHERE'S MY BABY?
HAZUKI?

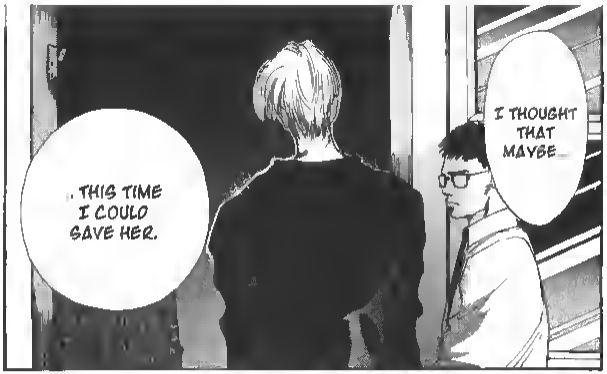
I SAID STOP!
RIGHT NOW I'M MORE AFRAID OF YOU!
GUYS, THE POLICE ARE HERE.
HEY!
SHUICHI OKAMOTO?
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST ON SUSPICION OF CONFINEMENT.
はあ
はあ
はあ!


HEH
A NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM SET IS 50,000 YEN
AT 750 AN HOUR, I HAVE TO WORK 66 HOURS TO PAY THAT OFF!
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME, KIDDO
GOT A LITTLE PRESENT FOR YA
I NEVER SHOULD'VE BOTHERED GETTING A JOB-- I'LL NEVER SEE THAT MONEY

GRAMPA! I LOVE YOU SO SO MUCH!
THANK TATSUKI-- HE'S THE ONE WHO BOUGHT IT.


KOTAROU? YOUR NEW UNIFORM'S HERE
WHA?!

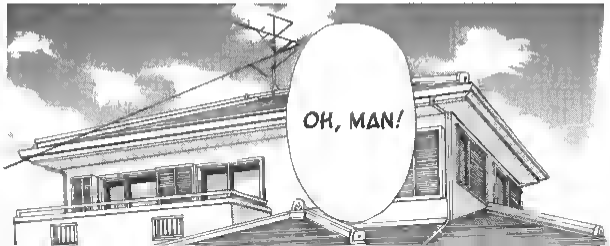
REALLY?!
TA-DA!
THE DRESS REALLY SUITED YOU THE OTHER DAY, SO I FIGURED--


I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE...
...THIS TIME I COULD SAVE HER.

LET IT GO, KOTAROU
C'MON-- DON'T CRY
PAT

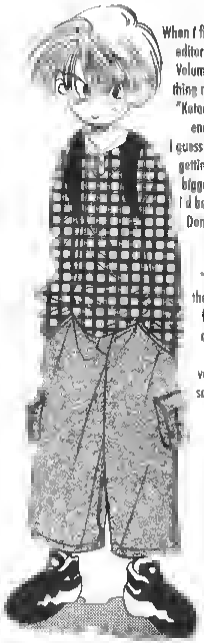
HEY.

...I-I'M SO STUPID. I'M SUCH A...
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN I COULDN'T HELP THESE PEOPLE


OH, MAN!

PAYBACK PLAN
(Continued from Act 2)
TATSUKI
EVENTUALLY
I WILL PAY YOU BACK FOR THAT UNIFORM.
I'm not some dimple mooch
HERE-- THIS IS A MONTH'S WORTH!
Go, Kotarou! Only 999 more months to go!
100 YEN?

HANDS OFF, PLEASE



When I first showed my editor the cover for Volume 1* the first thing mentioned was "Kotarou's eyes are enormous." I guess his eyes are getting bigger and bigger ever time... I'd better watch that. Don't want anyone getting hurt.

*This refers to the original cover for Volume 1, as opposed to TOKYOPOP'S version, but the same shock still applies.

He Is Cool

Rest In Peace, Friend

*The Beginning of a Buddhist sutra

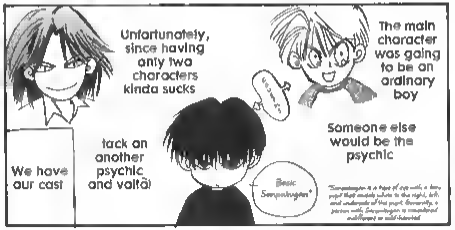
Soap Opera Part 1

I FEEL STRONGLY POSITIVE IN YOUR GENERAL DIRECTION
KOTAROU? UM...
OH, I LOVE YOU TOO!
TATSUKI!
THE SHOW MUST DIE.
LAST TIME I CHECKED WE HAD FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Soap Opera Part 2

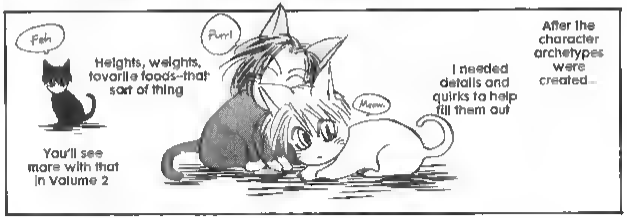
TATSUKI
AND HE USED TO BE CUTE
As Tak-kun
His eyes used to be as huge as Kotarou's
For anyone who may've been wondering Tatsuki's bike is a Honda CBR. It's pretty old but he's souped it up over time. The man loves motorcycles.
You'll eventually find out how Tatsuki went from this sweetie ⇑ to, uh, that ⇒
Generally speaking, though, having a strange and powerful ability puts a damper on your social success (Yuuto notwithstanding).
HE'S GOTTA BE GAY
No girlfriend despite the fans. Yawn.

KOTARO
Although it hasn't been mentioned in the series just yet, Kotarou loves basketball. He's been playing the kiddie version in a boys' league since elementary school.
WHAT? O!
AND STILL PLAYS LIKE A KIDDIE
Even though it may take awhile for the story to move in that direction, you'll start learning about Tatsuki's special power and his relationship with Kotarou soon enough.
Kotarou's earlier, more humiliating days
I'M NOT HAZUKI!
Hard. Reality.
MY IDEAL PHYSIQUE!
MICHAEL JORDAN!


Unfortunately, since having only two characters kinda sucks
The main character was going to be an ordinary boy
Someone else would be the psychic
We have our cast
Tack on another psychic and voilà!
Basic Sensibilities
"Sensibilities is a type of eye with a key point that models what to the right, left, and underside of the part. Personally, a person with Sensibilities is considered multilayered or well-balanced."

Uh, yeah. Sorry.
Truthfully, I'm glad we went with the blazer. Yuuto looks really crappy in a gakuran.
This is just because you suck at art.
I have bad gakuran memories.

I say blazer. They're really "in" now.
My current editor Mr. M-zawa
Hm
Next I agonized over the school uniform--a blazer, or a gakuran?*
*A traditional Japanese uniform with a stiff standing collar
This is pretty important.


Feh
Purr
Heights, weights, favorite foods--that sort of thing
You'll see more with that in Volume 2
Meow
I needed details and quirks to help fill them out
After the character archetypes were created...

YUUTO

Ah, yes, Yuuto the **Hunter**. Since he can read emotions through the colors of people's auras, he can slip through the defenses of today's modern girl. Behold the social applications of a super power!

Despite the overwhelming evidence, Yuuto is not just a sleazy womanizer. He's actually a really good guy--which will, hopefully, become evident as our series continues.

Yuuto's motorcycle is a Kawasaki ZEPHYR--you often see this model in comic books. Since I started drawing *Hands Off!* motorcycles have really started appealing to me. Cool ❤ Now it's exciting to walk by the motorcycle store in my neighborhood.

Coming Soon!

HANDS OFF!

Volume 2

Katarau is totally stoked that basketball season has started and he can now fulfill his hoop dreams. Things look even brighter for Kotorou when he meets Mia, a beautiful older woman who's got the hots for Kotarou. Unfortunately, he also meets Chiba, Mia's devious protector. With trouble afoot, Tatsuki and Yuuta must use their ESP to make sure there is no foul play!

Here's a little story about my visit to Shinjuku Ni-chome...
LOVE
ALAN
SHINE
where I skillfully took pictures for volume 6.
I also really like research
Collecting materials and taking pictures is a nice way to get out of the house
What's this world coming to?
Yeah
STALKER
LYNCHING
KNIFING
WE LIVE IN VIOLENT TIMES!
MAYBE THIS'D LOOK BETTER ON HIM...
Dead Serious
And I love making scrapbooks for character clothing choices
It's pretty time-consuming. And stupid, maybe
*Shinjuku Ni-chome is a famous for its gay culture and industry
Though I'm straight. Just visiting
Wha -? Either this man's an idiot, or he doesn't realize we're in a gay community
HEY, GIRLIE YOU LIKE TAKING PICTURES?
An old man approached me. Pretty odd. Very sleazy
I'LL TAKE YOUR PICTURES
In bed. Ha ahm-hum ching!
For a moment, I thought going with him might produce some interesting material for Hands Off! The fact that I had such an idea scares me to no end
BLEEP
KEE?
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN REAL SOON!
SMILE MORON!
FROM NOW ON, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO SEND HATE MAIL
HOPE THAT WAS FUN FOR YA!
★ AFTERWORD END ★

TOKYOPOP®

HANDS OFF!™

Manga
Comedy/Drama
USA $9.99

Kotarou Oohira is a boy with a clueless touch--he has an unusual type of ESP that is transmitted via physical contact. When he accidentally gives his cousin Tatsuki this "gift," he comes to realize that there is much more to his powers than he ever imagined!

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Known throughout the manga world, veteran manga-ka Kasane Katsumoto has delivered a close-to-home fantasy filled with action, intrigue and the gentle touch of boys!

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